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WKUSPIRIT

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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PICTURE THIS

University Photographer **Clinton Lewis ('04)** captured this image of the beautiful WKU campus in spring.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTES

Springtime on the Hill brings a sense of renewal and energy every year. This spring, under the leadership of Western Kentucky University's 10th President, **Timothy C. Caboni ('94)**, we're focused on thinking about the future, and stakeholders across campus are working together to define what WKU will look like in the years ahead.

In this issue, you can read about the new strategic plan, *Climbing to Greater Heights: The WKU Strategic Plan 2018-2028*. The themes of Our Students, Our Hill and Our Community and Beyond are the core tenets of our plan and outline exciting opportunities for us to help students climb with us for years to come. Last year, campus partners shared their hopes and aspirations for WKU and identified areas where improvement is needed. The resulting plan outlines a number of initiatives where alumni and donors can have an impact.

The WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors is also working on defining its own strategic plan for our future to align our efforts with WKU and its plan. Our work to engage alumni with one another and WKU is just as important now as it has ever been. We are redefining how we engage students as our future leaders, recent graduates, young alumni and alumni of all ages to ensure we have a strong network that allows the entire WKU family to keep climbing as Hilltoppers. Additionally, we are focused on helping alumni invest their time and philanthropy with the work of the Association across campus to make an impact. Our final theme is showcasing the impact that WKU alumni have on their professions and communities. Through stories of alumni achievement, we can help tell the story about the value of the WKU experience.

We invite you to think about how you can become engaged in the work of the Association and with WKU to help us implement our plans for the future. We invite you to help us recruit students, mentor existing students, network with graduating students and build strong alumni networks in order for all of us to climb higher. The WKU experience is special, and each and every one of us has our own story about how WKU has had a tremendous influence on our lives. It's this special relationship that bonds us together as Hilltoppers, because we know that life at the top is worth the climb.

Go Tops!

Anthony McAadoo (L)
Executive Director, WKU Alumni Association

WKU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

We recognize and appreciate our WKU Alumni Association Members!

We are grateful for the support of our members, who help make this magazine and our many engagement opportunities possible.

In the body of WKU SPIRIT, the names of all alumni are listed in bold font with their applicable graduation years. Lifetime Members of the WKU Alumni Association are recognized by an "L" next to their graduation years and Annual Members with an "A."

Not yet a member? To support your WKU Alumni Association and ensure you continue to receive WKU SPIRIT magazine, join now at alumni.wku.edu/join now.

WKUSPIRIT

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Letters and story ideas for WKU SPIRIT are welcomed and encouraged. Submission does not guarantee publication, and those letters that are published may be edited for style and length. Please include the writer's signature, the year of graduation if applicable, a daytime phone number and a return address. Letters may be sent by fax to 270-745-5017, e-mail to alumni@wku.edu or mail to WKU Alumni Association, WKU SPIRIT Editor, 292 Alumni Ave., Suite 309B, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Take a peek behind the curtain, and learn how several Hilltoppers make the show go on

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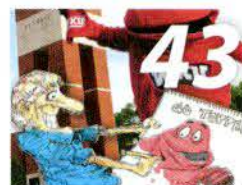
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WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

If you are like many Hilltoppers, Western Kentucky University has played an important role in your life. Perhaps you found your life's calling or were encouraged to reach your full potential. Or perhaps you met your spouse and made lifelong friends on the Hill. In ways both large and small, WKU has no doubt influenced you.

It is virtually impossible to put a dollar figure on what your experiences are worth. By making a bequest, you can acknowledge WKU in a meaningful way and make a lasting difference for the University and for your own personal legacy.

WHAT IS A BEQUEST?

A bequest is a statement in your written Last Will and Testament documenting your wishes to provide charitable funding for WKU after your death. Bequests account for a major portion of the University's endowment and funding, and they sustain all aspects of university life.



LEGACY of SPIRIT

SOCIETY OF 1906

To learn more about bequests and to see if this gift is right for you, visit alumni.wku.edu/plannedgiving or contact the Office of Planned Giving at (270) 745-6993.



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WKU honors veterans, unveils new panel at Guthrie Bell Tower

WKU honored veterans, recognized the 100th anniversary of WKU's ROTC program and unveiled a new granite panel at Guthrie Bell Tower during the annual Veterans Day ceremony.

"Today, we pause to reflect on the freedom that each of us enjoys – freedom that indeed is not free," WKU President Timothy C. Caboni ('94) said. "We remember the tremendous cost that has been paid as we recognize the service and sacrifice of our nation's military veterans. What we know is that each of us, in some way, endeavors to make a difference and to make the world a better place. The path that we choose to do so varies greatly, but we know that the price our veterans paid came at a higher cost than most."

"Here, at the Guthrie Bell Tower, we look upon the images of those who sacrificed so much in order for us to live freely. Some gave all, including the tower's namesake, Robert Guthrie. In honor of the 100-year anniversary of the ROTC program at WKU, we are pleased today to unveil a new panel for the Guthrie Bell Tower—featuring 18 more images symbolic of our military heroes."

The new panel includes the following alumni and friends: **Lt. Cmdr. John Magda ('40)**, Sgt. Frank Potts, **Col. Ray Nutter ('54)**, **Dr. Jerry Martin ('58)**, Col. Arthur "Mac" Reynolds, **Capt. John Holland ('59)**, **Brig. Gen. Victor Strahm (1915)**, **Sgt. Elvin Smith Sr. ('78)**, Willa Brown, Col. Jackie Carwell, **Col. Arnie Franklin ('66)**, Sgt. George Tinius, Sgt. Lashawnte Smith, **Staff Sgt. Hardin Field McChesney ('46)**, **Col. Gary "Mickey" Riggs ('58, '74)**, **Lt. Col. James Miles ('40)**, Sgt. 1st Class Leigh Ann Hester and **Lt. Col. Ken Hightower ('60)**.

"Without walking in their shoes, we cannot understand the trials and the hardships they endured as they served, fought for and protected our nation," President Caboni said. "They demonstrated the epitome of selflessness and loyalty to our country, and we remain grateful for each of them. I hope that all who pass by, and each who sees this tower from a distance, are reminded of the service, bravery and sacrifice of all of our veterans around the globe."



BOOK AWARD

Roberts and Inman win Legacy Book Award

Dr. Julia Link Roberts and Dr. Tracy Ford Inman ('86) of The Center for Gifted Studies at WKU, as well as Dr. Jennifer Robins of Baylor University, have won the 2018 Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT) Legacy Book Award in the Scholar category for their work editing the textbook *Introduction to Gifted Education*. The Scholar category honors books that guide graduate students or advanced educators to understand and expand upon the latest research on giftedness and gifted and talented education.

The TAGT Legacy Book Awards honor outstanding books published in the United States that have long-term potential for positively influencing the lives of gifted individuals and contribute to the understanding, well-being, education and success of gifted and talented students.

New WKU graduate impacts community through ENACTUS

Hope Thompson ('18) of Birmingham, Ala., who recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing with a concentration in Strategic Marketing, made her mark within the Gordon Ford College of Business through networking and getting involved. Her role with the WKU ENACTUS entrepreneurship team has enabled her to make a tangible impact on the Bowling Green community.

"We created an inventory management system for HOTEL, Inc., so they can properly order food that they need," Thompson said. "We also implemented the Bowling Green Night Market in Stadium Park Plaza. We wanted to give Bowling Green entrepreneurs a place that they could go that had low barriers of entry, but also a good location."

Thompson explained that the Bowling Green Night Market is located in a Tax Increment Financing District, which gives a portion of tax revenues earned back to the local businesses established in the area. Another project Thompson and the ENACTUS team has been working on is called Project Job Bus.

"Manufacturers in Bowling Green have a problem in that a lot of the people that they want to employ can't get there, so we have had multiple meetings where we are trying to acquire a van so that we can provide a means for people to get from point A to point B, for refugees especially, who are a huge pool for that service," she said.

Thompson said getting involved and getting to know her professors has made an impact on her success as a student at WKU.

"People talk about networking, but they do it for a good reason," she said. "I made an effort to get to know a lot of my professors personally. I just go in their offices, hang out with them, talk to them, let them know what my interests are and talk to them about what they care about. They have been tremendous in helping me find jobs. Opportunities have just flown in because I have made the connection and I networked, so they know that I have the potential to do things."

Thompson believes that the Spirit of WKU means personal growth.

"I came here from Alabama," she explained. "I didn't know anybody, so I think the Spirit just found its way in me and allowed me to be the best person I could be, to get involved and to make a mark here, because everyone is so great here that you want to get involved."



HONOR SOCIETY

WKU students awarded Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grants

Three WKU students have been awarded study abroad grants worth \$1,000 each from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi—the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. The students are part of a select group of 25 students nationwide to receive the award.

The students receiving a Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant are:

- Andi Dahmer, a senior from Fisherville, Ky., will use the grant to study in Spain
- Lauren Pedersen, a senior from Barbourville, Ky., will use the grant to study with the Semester at Sea program
- Dimond A. Shelton, a junior from Cromwell, Ky., will use the grant to study in Kenya

The selection process for a study abroad grant is based on the applicant's academic achievement, campus and community service, relation of travel to academic preparation and career goals, a personal statement, letters of recommendation and acceptance into a study abroad program.

SCHOLAR DEVELOPMENT

The Office of Scholar Development celebrates 10 years of big dreams

The 2018-2019 academic year marks the 10th year since the Office of Scholar Development at WKU was created. Established in 2008, OSD helps WKU students apply for and win nationally competitive scholarships.

Over its 10-year history, OSD has helped WKU students and alumni earn recognition more than 450 times and more than \$4.8 million in national scholarships. WKU students have won some of the nation's most prestigious awards, including the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Fulbright U.S. Program, Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, David M. Boren Awards and Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships. These scholarships enabled students to study abroad in more than 60 countries, learn languages critical to U.S. national security, earn graduate degrees at elite institutions and pursue public service, both domestically and internationally.



EMILIE GILL

Ogden Foundation Scholar drawn to career as book illustrator

Like most youngsters, **Emilie Gill ('18)** learned to read thanks to picture books. And, like most children, she moved on to chapter books, young adult novels and more.

But the fall 2018 WKU graduate never closed the book on her interest in picture books and plans to pursue a career as a book illustrator and visual storyteller.

"Our world has so many wonderful languages and cultures, and technology has made it very easy to communicate and exchange ideas," Gill said. "However, unfamiliar ideas can be difficult to understand and perhaps even appear intimidating, especially when verbal or written language cannot be exactly translated. Visual storytelling such as that found in picture books takes that daunting subject matter and approaches it with wit, innocence and wonder, making connections through entities to which all audiences can relate, such as color, emotions and even animals."

Gill, the daughter of Tyler and Sylvia Gill of Allensville, Ky., was recognized as the Ogden Foundation Scholar during the Potter College of Arts & Letters ceremony in December. WKU's top undergraduate academic award is presented to one graduating senior who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and outstanding university and civic engagement.

"As an Art History/Visual Studies double major with a Geography minor, WKU has taught me that any experience, whether in the sciences or arts, no matter how challenging, is an opportunity to learn and improve my craft," Gill said.

Gill was a student in the Mahurin Honors College; participated in four study abroad trips to New Zealand, Austria and Ireland; attended



a workshop at the Atlanta Center for Puppetry Arts and learned about the history and craft of puppetry; designed props and puppets for the Phoenix Theatre in Bowling Green; interned at Mammoth Cave National Park; and volunteered with the Governor's School for the Arts. Her awards and scholarships include the Art Department's Schierferdecker/Lester Award, the Jarve Endowment Scholarship for study abroad in New Zealand, WKU's 1906 Founders Scholarship and the Potter College Outstanding Student Award in Visual Studies. In addition, her work was selected as the official logo for WKU's International Year of Cuba.

"I am incredibly grateful for the faculty's willingness to allow me to explore my career goals freely on campus and on my programs abroad, and I am humbled by the knowledge that students at WKU can quietly, steadily work toward their goals, and their persistence will be recognized and rewarded. I am eager to return this kindness to both WKU and my community."

Kristina Arnold, Head of the WKU Department of Art, said Gill used her coursework and faculty expertise in the department to design her own course of study.

"As a testament to Emilie's creativity, work ethic, abilities and leadership role within the department, she is now claimed by all our major academic areas—Art History, Studio Art, Graphic Design and Art Education," Arnold said. "While students often dip their toes into multiple area waters, each program is distinct and time-consuming enough that it is nearly unheard of for a student to be productive in all four. During her time as a student, Emilie's coursework, interests, engagement and scholarship has bridged them all."

Gill has been interested in storytelling for as long as she can remember.

"I memorized all my books as a toddler and recited them aloud to myself, even before I could read," she recounted. "I was fascinated by the fact that one does not have to tell 'real' stories to impart truth, and that some truths can be more powerful and approachable as a fictional story. My family members aren't professional storytellers, but they taught

Herald wins 17th Pacemaker; Talisman wins 'Best of Show'

The *College Heights Herald* and the *Talisman* were honored with top awards during the National College Media Convention in Louisville in October. The *Herald* won a 2018 Newspaper Pacemaker from the Associated Collegiate Press, the second year in a row the *Herald* has won the award, and *Talisman* magazine placed first in the ACP Best of Show competition for collegiate feature magazines.

In addition to the newspaper Pacemaker, the *Herald's* *WKUHerald.com* was a finalist for an online Pacemaker, as was the website for the *Talisman*, *WKUTalisman.com*.

The Pacemaker, awarded by the Associated Collegiate Press, is regarded as the nation's highest honor for a student-run publication. The *Herald's* win was its 17th and the 37th for WKU Student Publications. *Talisman* has 20 Pacemakers—two in its current format as a life and culture magazine for its website and 18 from its years as a yearbook.

me that people respond more to information in a story format. They made sure to show me how all disciplines—science, the arts, history—are connected because we depend on stories to more easily understand each other and to solve problems related to each discipline. And rather than preaching to me about how they were right about this, my parents bought me picture books, took me to zoos and museums, and allowed me to come to that conclusion myself."

A semester in New Zealand at Massey University in Wellington was a pivotal moment for Gill. As a high school student, she had traveled to New Zealand with her parents and had seen the university during that trip. She never expected to study there, but when she was unable to attend Harlaxton College in England for the spring 2016 semester, Gill explored other options.

"I typed in New Zealand, illustration and Wellington, and the exact program I was looking for popped up," Gill said.

While studying illustration in Wellington, Gill had the opportunity to participate in workshops and conferences that featured artists, designers and others who had worked on feature films produced in New Zealand like *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

During summer programs in Austria and Ireland, Gill was able to combine her interests in illustrations and cultural geography.

"I strengthen those connections by combining art and science in my work," she said.

In *A Thousand Words: Celebrating the Power of Visual Language in Picture Books*, her thesis for the Mahurin Honors College, Gill conducted extensive research on the history of illustrated books and the development of the picture book market nationally and internationally. Using techniques from books she had researched, Gill wrote and illustrated *The Murmuring*, a 52-page picture book.

"I made my story in order to explore techniques that make picture books communicate successfully, such as color, style and more," she said. "It is a short story modeled after traditional folktales as well as those of Hans Christian Andersen and Oscar Wilde. To keep with the theme of language and communication, the story explores the idea of music and sound as a language and visible force through the portrayal of magic islands, massive pipe organs and giant blue birds. A 'murmuring' or 'murmuration' is actually a name for a flock of starlings, which I thought was appropriate since the term refers to both gentle sound and a species of songbird."

"I hope my work can contribute to global communication by eliminating fear through understanding and inviting audiences to explore difficult topics through whimsy and wonder," Gill said. "They can approach my visual stories comfortably, as a form of escape, but my hope is that they will soon realize fairy stories function not just as escapism but as a realm in which to explore aspects of reality with more clarity, to contemplate solutions to problems, and to return with the inspiration to help improve the real world."



RANGEL FELLOW

Richardson first WKU student selected as a Rangel Fellow

Deven Richardson of Bowling Green, Ky., has been selected as a 2019 Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellow. He is one of 30 fellows selected nationwide and the first WKU student to earn this honor.

The Rangel Fellowship program prepares outstanding students for careers in the U.S. Department of State foreign service. Through the fellowship, Richardson will receive \$37,500 annually for a two-year graduate degree, paid internships in the U.S. Congress and embassies abroad, and numerous opportunities for mentoring and professional development.

Richardson became interested in a U.S. foreign service career after studying at Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan, through a U.S. State Department-funded Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship program. Upon returning from Japan, Richardson participated in the Rangel Summer Enrichment Program, which confirmed his commitment to a career in the U.S. foreign service. Through the Rangel Summer Enrichment Program, he studied political economy and the history of U.S. foreign policy at Howard University and connected with international affairs professionals.

Richardson, a Political Science and International Affairs major, is the son of Christy Richardson.



WKU graduate student presents research at Arctic Circle Assembly

Jason Fox ('18) of Russellville, Ky., a graduate student in the WKU Center for Human GeoEnvironmental Studies (CHNGES) and Department of Geography and Geology, recently traveled to Iceland to present at the annual Arctic Circle Assembly conference and to complete thesis research along Iceland's southern coast evaluating the environmental impact of tourism activity and development at climate-vulnerable natural attractions.

The Arctic Circle Assembly, held in Reykjavik, is the largest annual forum for international dialogue on Arctic issues, science and political discourse.

Fox presented his own research at the Assembly, sharing the results of his recently completed WKU Honors thesis for the first time to the scientific community and other Arctic stakeholders. Fox discussed his recent choral composition, *Icelandic Sketches: Stories of Climate, Tourism and Change*, premiered by the WKU Chorale in Spring 2018, and the research behind the piece. The music depicted multiple narratives of climate change and tourism in Iceland, and the corresponding surveys of the singers and audience members provided some of the scientific literature's first data-backed evidence demonstrating music's ability to serve as a platform for environmental communication.

After the Assembly concluded, Fox headed for the southern coast of Iceland to complete a portion of his ongoing graduate thesis research. Accompanied by research assistant and recent WKU alumna **Sydney Herndon ('18)**, Fox completed 13 applications of his new environmental index designed to evaluate the severity of tourism's environmental impacts at water-based tourism sites in cold-climate regions. The index was applied at a variety of sites, including glacial lagoons, waterfalls and beaches. Fox will use the results of these applications to improve the design of the index, which he hopes will serve as a useful management and research tool for minimizing and mitigating tourism's environmental footprint. Such a tool is highly important, as many cold-climate regions like Iceland and the broader Arctic witness record numbers of yearly visitors while also facing the magnified effects of climate change, leaving landscapes vulnerable to both natural and man-made change.

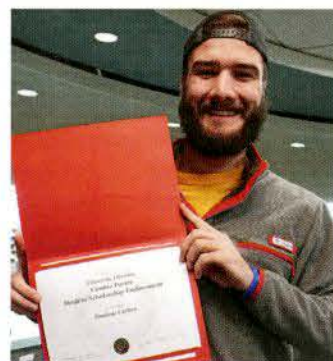
SCHOLARSHIPS

Hannah Nafziger and Dominic Castlen are first recipients of the Connie Foster Student Scholarship Endowment

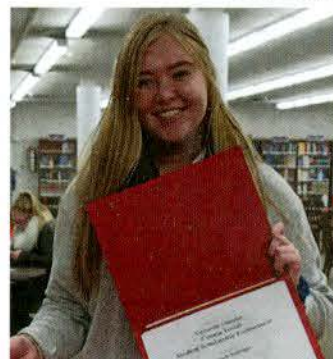
WKU students Hannah Nafziger and Dominic Castlen have been awarded the inaugural Connie Foster Student Scholarship from the newly created endowment.

Nafziger, a sophomore from Edwardsville, Ill., is pursuing a major in Health Care Administration. She works in the Interlibrary Loan Department. Nafziger says this scholarship will bring her one step closer to her dream of studying abroad.

Castlen, a junior from Lexington, Ky., is pursuing a degree in Accounting. He works in the Visual and Performing Arts Library. Castlen says the scholarship will allow him to focus on his studies as well as bettering the community through working with WKU's Habitat for Humanity.



Dominic Castlen



Hannah Nafziger



WKU PRESIDENT TIMOTHY C. CABONI



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the past several months, I have shared the critical importance of our alumni to WKU and the significance of their role in the University's 2018-2028 strategic plan, *Climbing to Greater Heights*. As we implement the plan, we need your participation in shaping the future of our alma mater.

What you will find throughout the plan is the centrality of students. As a student-centered University, we will enhance the world-class academic and transformative experience we provide—an experience that prepares students for their lives and careers. We do this most successfully when new Hilltoppers begin on our Hill as freshmen, continue with us consecutively for four years and finish their degrees at WKU. To this end, we are focusing on recruitment, retention and graduation.

As a result of our efforts thus far, we see progress in each of these areas. First, in fall 2018 we welcomed the most qualified freshman class in the history of WKU, with an average GPA of 3.39 and an average ACT score of 23.2. Second, first-to-second-year retention rebounded in 2017-2018 for both low income and the overall student population, increasing from 60.2 percent to 62.7 percent and 69.9 percent to 71.5 percent respectively.

Third, we achieved an 86.9 percent fall-to-spring semester persistence rate for our first-time, first-year fall 2018 cohort, up from 83.9 percent for the fall 2017. Finally, our six-year graduation rate, 53.4 percent, is now the highest in WKU's history. We will continue to increase these numbers as we implement our 80-60 plan to attain an 80 percent first-to-second-year persistence rate and a 60 percent graduation rate.

As we continue our institutional climb, WKU needs your help. Together, our alumni and friends have significant reach and influence. There simply is no better representation of the success that results from a WKU degree. Your professional and personal achievements, the difference you make in your communities and the lives you change serve as remarkable examples of the life-changing effects of the WKU Experience. Many of you are already active in recruiting students to the Hill, and I thank you for both the time and energy you spend on these efforts. More than ever before, we need you as a voice for WKU. Prospective students need to hear your stories and understand why WKU will transform their lives just as it did yours. Additionally, I encourage you to consider becoming an official WKU Alumni Ambassador, where you can have an even greater role in our efforts. You can learn more and fill out an interest form by visiting alumni.wku.edu/alumniambassador.

Thank you for embracing WKU's strategic plan and asking what you can do to help strengthen and grow our institution during the next decade. Alumni are vital to everything we do and are a cornerstone of our University's success. I look forward to working with you as we continue climbing to greater heights.

Timothy C. Caboni ('94)

Climbing to Greater Heights

The WKU Strategic Plan 2018-2028

Climbing to Greater Heights: The 2018-2028 Strategic Plan for Western Kentucky University is a carefully defined roadmap that will guide the University through the next decade. It focuses on student success and ensuring that our campus environment attracts the highest quality faculty and staff, and it renews our commitment to being fully engaged in our region and the Commonwealth while providing a global context to the WKU Experience.

The landscape for public higher education is ever changing and may at times feel like an uphill climb. We will prepare ourselves to meet the challenges that lie ahead by pursuing innovation in teaching and delivery, connecting what we do to the region and the Commonwealth, and ensuring that the WKU Experience transforms the lives of our students, employees, alumni, and friends and elevates the communities we serve—both in our region and beyond. These are the principles that will guide us in our climb to greater heights. We invite you to climb with us.

OUR Students

We embrace our responsibility as a public university in Kentucky to provide access to an affordable postsecondary education of exceptional quality, but we also recognize that access without success is access to nothing at all. This plan outlines aggressive steps to ensure that students can graduate in four years fully prepared to enter the workplace or pursue a graduate degree. WKU students will begin their climb confident they have support from faculty, staff and the community. And when our graduates leave WKU, they will depart with the skills to make a good living and, more importantly, with the capacity to make a good life for themselves and for those around them.



AFFORDABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY

Ensure the WKU Experience remains affordable and accessible to every qualified student.



A DIVERSE BODY OF STUDENTS

Enroll a diverse body of regional and global undergraduate, graduate and nontraditional students who are fully prepared for a rigorous, fulfilling college experience at WKU.



COMPLETION AND SUCCESS

Ensure WKU student completion and success.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Enact and practice all aspects of WKU's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan.



PREPARATION FOR THE GLOBAL STAGE

Prepare students for career and life in a global context.

OUR Hill

The Hill is both the physical location and symbolic representation of the people who are the lifeblood of the University. Throughout its rich history, WKU has been shaped by its leadership and the dedicated faculty and staff who have committed their life's work to teaching, research and service that transforms the lives of our students and elevates the communities around us. This plan advances a campus climate that supports quality teaching and pursuits of scholarly and creative activities; service and outreach; a devotion to diversity, equity and inclusion; and a commitment to being responsible citizens and good stewards of place.



POLICIES & PRACTICES

Establish policies and practices that promote a collegial work environment, overall employee wellness, stewardship of place and an appreciation for WKU's history and traditions.



SUSTAINABLE BUDGET MODEL

Implement a budget model that is sustainable, supports institutional priorities that ensure student success and rewards strategic performance across the enterprise.



A CULTURE OF INNOVATION

Increase faculty participation in programs offered through the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning to build a culture of innovation through the use of current and emerging instructional technologies, and create specific programming to enhance teaching and active learning.



RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Incentivize and support research and creative activities that promote student learning, expand university outreach and service, and bolster the regional economy.

A REGIONAL LIGHTHOUSE

Establish WKU as a regional lighthouse to provide resources, attract talent and nurture intellectual capital in the communities we serve.



GLOBAL LEARNING

Leverage WKU's international reach to create a dynamic and diverse university community with robust global learning for every student.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Facilitate continuing education, retraining and degree completion, leveraging online resources and WKU's regional campuses.



QUALITY OF LIFE

Improve the quality of life regionally and support regional economic diversification.



ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

Support athletic excellence and the success of WKU student-athletes.



ALUMNI AMBASSADORS

Engage alumni as global ambassadors and cultivate ongoing relationships that last a lifetime.



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Energize and inspire individuals, foundations and corporations to invest in the future of WKU and enable our climb to greater heights.



OUR Community & Beyond

Henry Hardin Cherry's decision to locate WKU high on a hilltop in beautiful Bowling Green, Ky., was intentional. Overlooking the city from the Hill was symbolic of President Cherry's commitment to caring for the community by educating its citizens. Today, WKU is an economic engine for the region and the Commonwealth, and our reach extends across the globe through our faculty, staff, students and alumni. This plan recognizes the need for WKU to be intentional in our partnerships with the communities that surround us, to be actively engaged in elevating the economies in those communities and to build the talent pipeline that will fuel the future workforce for the Commonwealth. As important is our commitment to providing a global context to the WKU Experience both on the Hill and throughout the world.

OUR Students. OUR Hill. OUR Community & Beyond.

Climbing to Greater Heights: The WKU Strategic Plan 2018-2028 can be found in its entirety at wku.edu/strategicplan.



WKU Opportunity Fund continues tradition of access and opportunity

At the Investiture Ceremony in April 2018, WKU President Timothy C. Caboni ('94) announced the creation of the WKU Opportunity Fund, a focused fundraising campaign to raise \$50 million to support WKU students. The WKU Opportunity Fund is one of the strategic initiatives included in *Climbing to Greater Heights: The WKU Strategic Plan 2018-2028*.

The WKU Opportunity Fund is the latest chapter of the rich tradition of access and opportunity that has been a part of Western Kentucky University since it was founded by Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry. President Cherry used a \$100 gift from a faculty member to provide financial assistance to deserving students, and the University has continued to embrace that tradition.

"One of our priorities as a student-centered university is to remove those barriers that prevent someone from pursuing higher education or realizing the full educational experience available at WKU," said Kacy S. Caboni, Director of Principal Gifts and Special Projects at WKU. "The collection of resources that will be available because of the Opportunity Fund will enable us to make the WKU experience available to more students who might otherwise miss out."

The campaign's three priorities are recruitment, retention and experiences beyond the classroom.

Scholarship support allows students to focus on their

education without the worry of mounting debt through loans. However, there is a shortfall in renewable resources available for scholarships. Increasing scholarship opportunities makes the WKU experience attractive to more students regardless of their financial situation and background, including the 40 percent of our student population that are first-generation college students.

"These scholarships will be especially helpful to our core students—those who have a good grade-point average and who come from our 27-county service region," Caboni said. "These are excellent students who often need a little financial help."

Getting students to the Hill is just the beginning.

"We know that life sometimes gets in the way, and financial pressure is one of the factors that cause students to leave before completing a degree," she said.

The Opportunity Fund will also secure private resources to assist students through retention funds to help them with

emergency needs that might impede their educational persistence. Retention funds are designed to provide support to help address a verified need associated with a student's education. This type of funding may be designated for tuition, course fees, books, housing, transportation or other relevant needs.

"A student-centered university takes care of students once they arrive," Caboni said. "Sometimes it is just a few hundred dollars that can cause them to drop out or not continue to graduation. These retention funds are designed to help them over those hurdles."

Education is also more than books and classrooms. Students' educational experiences are significantly enhanced by attending conferences, studying abroad, pursuing research, participating in national internships and other similar experiences beyond the classroom. Yet, these opportunities can be out of reach for students who are struggling to make ends meet.

"Through private support, the Opportunity Fund will also help make these experiences possible," Caboni said. "We know that the experience outside of the classroom is important, too, in better preparing students for life and work."

Caboni said hitting the \$50 million goal for the Opportunity Fund will be a team effort, bridging three foundations as well as the entire campus.

"The Opportunity Fund is not one centralized fund into which we will be placing these gifts," she said. "As always, donors are encouraged to support areas that are meaningful to them. The Opportunity Fund campaign builds on the WKU tradition of helping deserving students and will ensure that permanently endowed funds will support student-centered initiatives and positively affect the lives of future generations of Hilltoppers."

WHY?

WHY DO WE NEED THE WKU OPPORTUNITY FUND?

- There is a **shortfall in renewable resources** available for scholarships.
- Our 27-county service region represents **89 percent of our student population**.
- First-generation college students represent **40 percent of our population**.
- Students receiving financial assistance represent **95 percent of our population**.
- Financial ability is often the only impediment hindering a student from taking advantage of **career-enhancing experiences** like unpaid internships or **cultural and lifelong learning opportunities** like study abroad.
- Emergency situations arise that can prevent a student from **persisting to graduation**.
- **Campus employment opportunities** are convenient and beneficial to both the student and employer but are limited.



WKU PHILANTHROPISTS

George and CJ Nichols recognized by WKU

George ('82, L) and CJ Nichols ('82, L) were recently named WKU's 2018 Philanthropists of the Year.

"We are honored and humbled to be recognized," said George Nichols. "We know that so many others have done so much more than we have even thought about. For WKU to consider our efforts worthy of such an honor makes us proud. We accept it on behalf of all the people in the WKU family who are giving back."

George Nichols is currently serving on the WKU Board of Regents. In addition to his role as a Regent, he served on the WKU Board of Advisors from 2010 to 2017, and he was a member of the WKU Foundation Board of Trustees from 2003 to 2011. On Nov. 1, 2018, he began serving as the President and CEO of The American College of Financial Services in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

"As a Regent, I get to see and learn up close and personal the commitment and love that so many have for the University," said George Nichols. "It makes me work harder to assure that I am bringing my very best to the table to help President Caboni and the other Regents in our role as servant leaders to Topper nation."

In 2017, the Nicholases made a gift to support diversity initiatives at WKU, including programming support for the Intercultural Student Engagement Center Academy (ISEC-Academy). In honor of their gift, the Center was named the Cynthia and George Nichols III Intercultural Student Engagement Center.

The Nicholases say their philosophy on giving is due to the wonderful blessings in their lives from family, friends and strangers who are always lifting them up.

"We want to share those blessings by trying to lift up others," said CJ Nichols. "The only thing we ask is that those we help pass it on and lift up others. George and CJ Nichols have three children. ■ DEANNA M. JENKINS ('09, '17, L)

SUPPORT?

WHY DO YOU SUPPORT THE WKU OPPORTUNITY FUND?

"I'm a first-generation college graduate, and without support from people around me, that wouldn't have happened," said **Sunshine Micatrotto (L)**.

"I attended WKU on a full football scholarship," said **Joe Micatrotto ('11, L)**. "I always felt like WKU paid it forward to me, and this was an opportunity to help pay it forward to other WKU students. We are blessed to be able to do something like this. Being a part of the WKU family is a real thing to our family."

The Micatrottos established the Micatrotto Family Opportunity Fund for Athletics to benefit student-athletes, with first preference given to WKU Football student-athletes, and provide access to applied experiences and other relevant financial needs related to their educational pursuits.

"A scholarship like this would have been useful to us personally," said **Sherrie Swanberg ('79, L)**. "This is a way to help students who really want to be educated by opening up opportunities they may not have otherwise."

"The needs-based aspect really spoke to us," said **Chris Swanberg ('81, L)**. "We both come from modest backgrounds, so being able to make this available seemed like a great way to give back."

The Swanbergs established the Swanberg Shuler Opportunity Scholarship Fund to support WKU students from both Henderson County High School and Owensboro High School, Chris and Sherrie Swanberg's respective high schools, through renewable scholarship opportunities.

James Graham Brown FOUNDATION

"This grant, intended to bolster WKU's efforts to give students from all backgrounds the support needed to help them persist and earn a degree, aligns with the Foundation's goals in student success," said Mason Rummel, President and CEO of the James Graham Brown Foundation.

The James Graham Brown Foundation of Louisville, Ky., made a two-year, \$450,000 grant to Western Kentucky University to support retention and persistence efforts. ■ **BOB SKIPPER ('82, '91)** AND **DEANNA M. JENKINS ('09, '17, L)**

To learn more, visit wku.edu/opportunityfund.



Sunshine (L), Kai, Rocco and Joe Micatrotto ('11, L)



Chris ('81, L) and Sherrie Swanberg ('79, L)

WKU Center for Leadership Excellence

Dr. Phillip Bale, current Regent, and Kristen Bale, former Regent, make gift to support the WKU Center for Leadership Excellence

Kristen T. (L) and Phillip W. Bale (L) of Glasgow, Ky., have made a gift of \$250,000, through a combination of an outright gift and a provision in their estate plans, to establish the Kristen T. & Phillip W. Bale Leadership Excellence Fund to benefit the WKU Center for Leadership Excellence.

"The reason our gift is directed to leadership is that we both have a belief and conviction that leadership really matters," said Dr. Bale. "Whether that be in higher education or in a factory making a product, leadership matters. Our gift is given with a strong belief that the development and nurturing of leadership is critical to both the short- and long-term success of the University."

"A strong university affects the entire region. WKU has far-reaching influence that positively impacts innumerable individuals throughout our Commonwealth, including our own children," said Kristen Bale. "We hope to strengthen our community as a result."

Dr. Bale, a Family Physician with Graves Gilbert Clinic, currently serves as the Chair of WKU's Board of Regents. He has served on the Board of Regents since 2013 and served as the Chair of the Presidential Search Committee that selected **Dr. Timothy C. Caboni ('94)** as WKU's 10th President. Kristen Bale served on WKU's Board of Regents from 1992 to 2005, and she served as the Chair from 2000 to 2003. She was on the Presidential Search Committee that selected **Dr. Gary A. Ransdell ('73, '74, L)** as WKU's ninth President.



John Paul Blair ('92, L), Phillip Bale (L), Kristen Bale (L), President Caboni ('94)

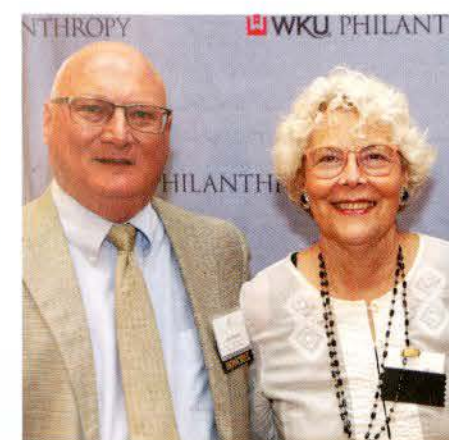
Reflecting the Bales' interest and commitment to board leadership development, part of the mission of the endowment will focus on preparing current and future board members for their roles as members of the WKU Board of Regents.

The Bales met while they were attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They say that the combined 18 years they have dedicated to WKU supersedes their ties to their alma mater.

"When Western plays Wisconsin in football and basketball, we root for Western," laughed Kristen Bale. "Wisconsin set us on this path of a love for education, but we've put more sweat and tears into Western. We find ourselves here and happily so." ■ **DEANNA M. JENKINS ('09, '17, L)**

PROFESSORSHIP IN MARKETING

Joe and Susan Walters establish professorship in marketing



Joe ('83, L) and Susan Walters ('81, L)

Joe ('83, L) and Susan Walters ('81, L) of Campbellsville, Ky., have made a gift of \$1.1 million to establish the Joseph L. Walters Professorship in Marketing in the Gordon Ford College of Business. The gift was made through a combination of a current gift and a provision in their estate plans.

Joe Walters, a first-generation college student from Green County who received a Bachelor of Science in Management from WKU, started working at the bookstore on campus in 1976 even before he started taking classes. Susan Walters' father, Dr. Ralph Tesseneer, a Professor of Psychology, held his first teaching position at WKU, and she was born in Bowling Green. She received her Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) while working as the International Student Advisor at WKU from 1979 to 1986.

"Western is where I had the first opportunity to grow into who I am today," said Joe Walters. "The opportunities I was given as a student and employee were a factor in all of my life, and I wanted to give back to the University. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to support the Gordon Ford College of Business with my estate and for the rest of my lifetime."

With the addition of the Joseph L. Walters Professorship, all departments in the Gordon Ford College of Business now have endowed professorships. ■ **DEANNA M. JENKINS ('09, '17, L)**

WKU Sisterhood

Women's philanthropy group donates money and clothing to help students dress to impress

On Nov. 16, members of the WKU Sisterhood gathered on WKU's campus for their annual meeting where they awarded more than \$55,000 in grants to four University programs and initiatives. One of those awards was a \$30,000 grant to the Gordon Ford College of Business Professional Clothes Closet, which provides WKU business students the opportunity to select professional clothing free of charge.



"The money will be used for building out a room in Grise Hall that is currently used for storage. It will be a shop with office hours where students can come get their business professional outfit free of charge," explained **Monica Duvall ('05)**, Internship and PEAK (Professional Education and Knowledge) Coordinator for the Gordon Ford College of Business. "We will have racks, and everything will be sized and easy for a student to find an outfit at any time, whether it's at one of our events or in the middle of the semester. The shop will also make it easy for me to answer when donors ask to bring things and want to know what we specifically need."

Inspired by the project, one group of Sisterhood members decided to provide personal support, regardless of whether or not the project received a grant from the November meeting. After the annual meeting of the Sisterhood, these alumnae who traveled together from Louisville gathered at Grise Hall to bring bags and carts full of professional clothing to donate to the cause.

"We wanted to donate clothes for students to use during interviews and job prospects," added **Michelle Wells ('83, L)**, a founding member of the WKU Sisterhood. "It's all about giving back, and we want our students to represent WKU well and do well in life."

In addition to supporting the room renovation, the grant funding will also help pay for dry-cleaning services, as well as the purchase of proper-sized clothing for students who are unable to find the size they need in the closet.

"We all had great experiences at WKU, and we just want to give back to help the students and faculty have the same great experiences," stated Sisterhood member **Margo Grace ('84, L)**.

To donate to the Professional Clothes Closet, contact Monica Duvall at monica.duvall@wku.edu or 270-745-4136. ■ ROSE REMENTER

GRANT RECIPIENTS

In addition to the grant for the Gordon Ford College of Business Professional Clothes Closet, the following grants were also awarded:

- \$6,602 to create an online State Registered Nurse Aide Program
 - \$5,000 to the Xposure High School Journalism Workshop
 - \$14,000 to the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Women's Right to Vote
- To learn more about the 2018 grant recipients, visit wku.edu/sisterhood.

What is the WKU Sisterhood?

The WKU Sisterhood is a group of women with shared values, who enjoy collaborating to advance the mission of WKU. Members pool their financial gifts and award funds to a limited number of university designations to maximize the impact of their philanthropy. Each member of the program has an opportunity to be connected and learn about university priorities. Members have an equal voice on how the pooled funds of the WKU Sisterhood are distributed annually to the University community. A member may be as involved as she wishes, from serving in a leadership role to simply making her gift.

To learn more about the WKU Sisterhood or to join, please visit wku.edu/sisterhood.

GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday brings in more than \$118,000, increase in donors and gifts

Giving Tuesday (Nov. 27, 2018) results included gifts totaling \$118,127.57, a 22 percent increase from Giving Tuesday in 2017. Of the 477 donors, 68 were first-time donors to WKU. The total number of donors represents a 16.9 percent increase from 2017.

Kentucky Museum

Carpenter Foundation awards Kentucky Museum grant for free admission

The Kentucky Museum has received a grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation that will allow the Museum to offer free admission to the public for three years.

"The staff, board and Friends of the Kentucky Museum are very grateful for the recent gift from the Carpenter Foundation to help us reach an ever-widening group of visitors," said Brent Bjorkman, Director of the Kentucky Museum. "For nearly 80 years, the Kentucky Museum has been a learning laboratory for our entire community and a place for visitors to learn more about the culture, history and art of this region of Kentucky and beyond."

The Carpenter Foundation sponsorship is for three years, allowing the Museum to evaluate and gather evidence to support future sponsorship of free admission. The Carpenter Foundation was established in 1975 by E. Rhodes Carpenter. The Richmond, Va., based company, now known as Carpenter Co., has a location in Russellville, Ky.

Free admission began Jan. 1, 2019. The Kentucky Museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ■ DEANNA M. JENKINS ('09, '17, L)

Meet Tyson Helton

Head Coach of Hilltopper Football

A familiar face with a championship pedigree is back on the Hill as former WKU Offensive Coordinator Tyson Helton, a Conference USA and Rose Bowl Champion, has been named the 21st Head Football Coach at Western Kentucky University. Helton returns to WKU three years removed from the 2015 football season, which ended with WKU's final Associated Press ranking of 24 – the highest in school history – and a school-record 12 victories, including the first-ever FBS conference championship.

During his three years away from the program, Helton spent two seasons at the University of Southern California as the Passing Game Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach under Head Coach Clay Helton. Immediately prior to his return to the Hill as Head Coach, Helton was Tennessee Head Coach Jeremy Pruitt's first hire on his initial coaching staff as Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach in 2018.

Previously at WKU, Helton found success as WKU's Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach in 2014 and 2015 under then-Head Coach Jeff Brohm. WKU's offensive numbers ranked among the nation's elite during Helton's two years on the staff and featured the first-ever 4,500-yard passer (**Brandon Doughty '15**) and 1,500-yard rusher (**Leon Allen '17**) in the same season in FBS history in 2014.

WKU broke more than two dozen school offensive records under Helton, including the points scored record in each of his two years. The Hilltopper offense was in the national Top 10 in 2015 in passing efficiency

(1st, 177.4), scoring (3rd, 44.3), passing (4th, 372.2), first downs (8th, 349) and total yards (9th, 526.4).

In 2014, WKU became the first NCAA program with a 4,500-yard passer and 1,500-yard rusher while winning the Bahamas Bowl to finish 8-4. That season, they were second nationally in passing (374.3), fourth in total offense (534.6) and sixth in scoring offense (44.4) and first downs (351).

Helton was among four finalists for the 2015 *FootballScoop.com* Offensive Coordinator of the Year Award. He coached quarterback Brandon Doughty to back-to-back Conference USA MVP honors as he threw 97 touchdown passes in 2014 and 2015 (the most in NCAA history in consecutive seasons). Doughty led the nation in 2015 in completion percentage (71.9), passing touchdowns (48), passing yards (5,055) and points responsible for (304), while ranking second in passing efficiency (176.5). That came off a 2014 campaign in which he threw for national bests of 4,830 yards and 49 TDs while winning the Sammy Baugh Award from the Touchdown Club of Columbus as the nation's top quarterback. Wide receiver **Taywan Taylor** ranked second in the nation in 2015 in receiving touchdowns (17) and was third in receiving yards (1,467), both school season records as was his 86 receptions. Fellow receiver **Jared Dangerfield ('14)** had 82 catches in 2015, second most in school history.

Helton played quarterback at Houston (1996-1999). He and his wife, April, have two daughters, Shelby Grace and Presley, and twin boys, Cole and Clay.

PERSONAL FILE

BORN June 20, 1977 HOMETOWN Gainesville, Fla.

WIFE April CHILDREN Shelby Grace, Presley, Cole, Clay

PLAYING CAREER (Quarterback)

HIGH SCHOOL Clements High COLLEGE Houston (1996-1999)

COACHING CAREER

2000: **Hawai'i** (Graduate Assistant)

2001-2003: **Hawai'i** (Special Teams)

2004-2006: **Memphis** (Tight Ends/Special Teams)

2007-2011: **UAB** (Quarterbacks)

2012: **UAB** (Running Backs)

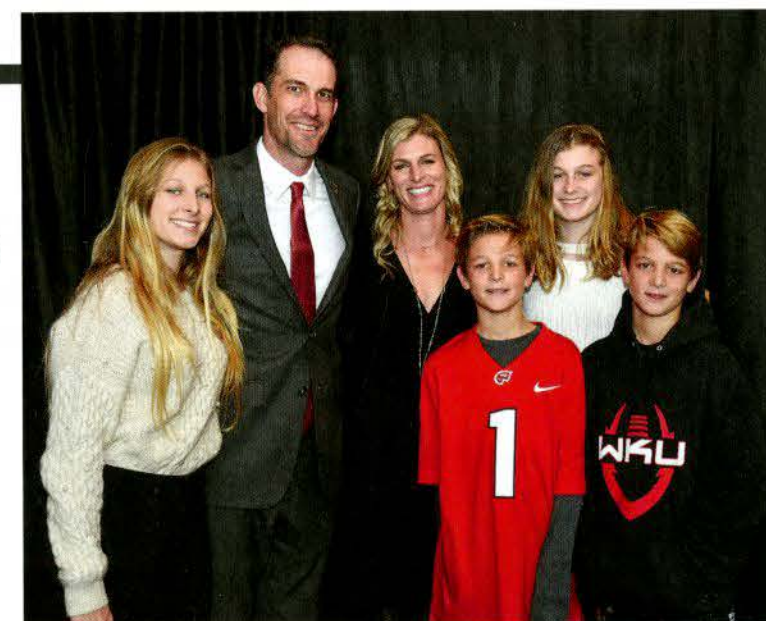
2013: **Cincinnati** (Tight Ends/Special Teams)

2014-2015: **WKU** (Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks)

2016-2017: **USC** (Passing Game Coordinator/Quarterbacks)

2018: **Tennessee** (Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks)

2019: **WKU** (Head Coach)



100 Years of WKU Basketball

WKU celebrates All-Century team in honor of 100 years of Hilltopper Basketball

Hilltopper Basketball celebrated its 100th season in 2018-2019 with an honorary All-Century team. The 15-player All-Century squad, a prestigious list composed of some of the best to ever compete on the hardwood for the Hilltoppers, was led by Head Coach E.A. Diddle. Diddle coached the Hilltoppers to a 759-302 record over 42 seasons from 1923-1964, becoming the first coach to ever guide his team through 1,000 games at one school. His 759 wins were the highest total ever by a college coach at the time of his retirement. Diddle helped develop 13 All-Americans during his tenure, including six members of the All-Century Team.

As the players appearing on the highest percentage of total ballots, the captains of the WKU All-Century Team were guard **Courtney Lee ('08)** and center **Jim McDaniels ('71, L)**. Lee and McDaniels share the WKU all-time scoring record with 2,238 career points each. Lee was named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year and received All-American honors in 2008. McDaniels, who passed away in 2017, was an All-American every season from 1969-1971 and a consensus All-American in 1971.

Lee and McDaniels were joined on the team by **Johnny Britt ('76)**, **Darel Carrier ('64, A)**, **Ralph Crosthwaite ('59)**, **Tellis Frank ('87, '09)**, **Clem Haskins ('67, L)**, **Kannard Johnson ('87)**, **Chris Marcus ('02)**, **Tom Marshall, John Oldham ('49)**, **Bobby Rascoe ('62, '85, L)**, **Dwight Smith ('91)**, **Art Spoelstra** and **Carlisle Towery ('41)**. The All-Century Team members represent

decades ranging from the 1930s to the 2000s.

Their list of collective accomplishments is staggering, including 21 All-America honors. They earned nine conference Player of the Year awards, including multiple wins for both McDaniels and Haskins, and received 44 total all-conference selections.

In all, the 15 All-Century players scored 23,753 career points in their time as Hilltoppers. They accounted for 11 NBA Draft picks, including four first-rounders and three second-rounders.

All eight WKU players with a jersey retired in the Diddle Arena rafters are represented on the All-Century Team. Diddle himself also has a banner in his honor in the venue.

WKU invited fans to vote online and put together their own teams to count for a percentage of the overall voting totals. Simultaneously, other voting groups contributed to the process, including members of athletic administration, WKU Basketball Athletic Hall of Famers, active W-Club basketball lettermen and the W-Club Board of Directors.

WKU honored the 100th season of Hilltopper Basketball throughout the 2018-2019 campaign. The school also celebrated the 100th seasons of Hilltopper Football and Baseball as well.

In its previous 99 seasons, WKU Basketball amassed an all-time record of 1,775-912. The Hilltoppers rank 17th in NCAA history in all-time wins, eighth in winning percentage (.661), third in regular-season championships (42) and seventh in 20-win seasons (44).

ALL-CENTURY TEAM

HEAD COACH **E.A. Diddle (1923-1964)**

Johnny Britt GUARD (1973-1976)

Darel Carrier GUARD (1962-1964)

Ralph Crosthwaite CENTER (1955, 1957-1959)

Tellis Frank FORWARD (1984-1987)

Clem Haskins GUARD (1965-1967)

Kannard Johnson FORWARD (1984-1987)

Courtney Lee GUARD (2005-2008) - CAPTAIN

Chris Marcus CENTER (2000-2002)

Tom Marshall FORWARD (1951-1954)

Jim McDaniels CENTER (1969-1971) CAPTAIN

John Oldham GUARD (1943, 1947-1949)

Bobby Rascoe GUARD (1960-1962)

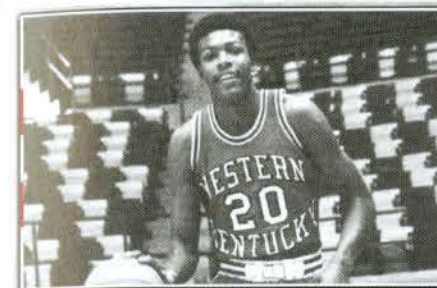
Dwight Smith GUARD (1965-1967)

Art Spoelstra CENTER (1952-1954)

Carlisle Towery CENTER (1939-1941)



E.A. DIDDLE, HEAD COACH (1923-64)



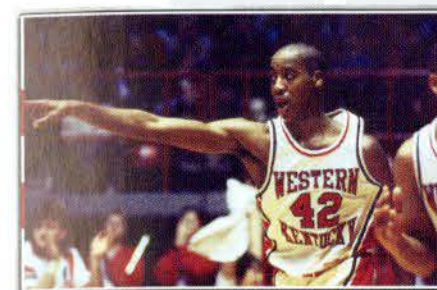
JOHNNY BRITT, GUARD (1973-76)



DAREL CARRIER, GUARD (1962-64)



RALPH CROSTHWAITE, CENTER (1955, '57-59)



TELLIS FRANK, FORWARD (1984-87)



CLEM HASKINS, GUARD (1965-67)



KANNARD JOHNSON, FORWARD, 1984-87



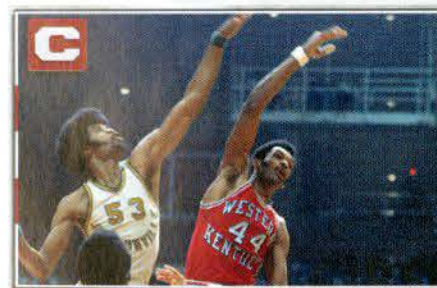
COURTNEY LEE, GUARD (2005-08)



CHRIS MARCUS, CENTER (2000-02)



TOM MARSHALL, FORWARD (1951-54)



JIM MCDANIELS, CENTER (1969-71)



JOHN OLDHAM, GUARD (1943, '47-49)



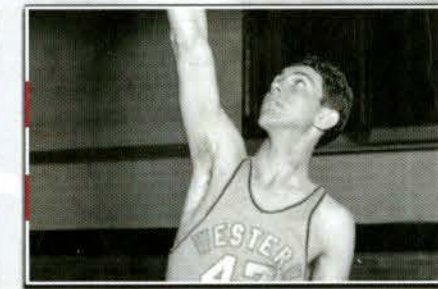
BOBBY RASCOE, GUARD (1960-62)



DWIGHT SMITH, GUARD (1965-67)



ART SPOELSTRA, CENTER (1952-54)



CARLISLE TOWERY, CENTER (1939-41)



Hilltopper Hall

In her role as Senior Administrative Resident Assistant, Jena Thompson was the first person to move into Hilltopper Hall. Once all 400 residents arrived for the fall 2018 semester, it didn't take long for Thompson to see the role the new residence hall plays in WKU Housing's future.

"I have been able to see Hilltoppers' lives grow from the ground up, supporting a diverse community that encompasses individuals throughout all walks of life," said Thompson, a senior from Owensboro, Ky. "There's just always something going on. Someone always in a space, interacting, getting to know people, becoming more involved with our school. That just makes Hilltopper Hall our home away from home."

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony in October, **President Timothy C. Caboni ('94)** noted the important role Hilltopper Hall plays in WKU's mission and its efforts to recruit and retain more students.

"What we officially recognize and celebrate here today is the opening of a new student-centered living space," President Caboni said. "It is on our Hill and it serves as just one example of the student-focused decisions we're making as a University. Here in this one space our students can live, dine, study, gather together. It's an environment where they can thrive academically and socially, which we know is key to strengthening the entire WKU experience."

"This Hall serves as an important indicator of where we are headed and serves as a reminder of our commitment to our students," he said. "Housing plays an absolutely crucial role in their success, their persistence and their graduation."

The first floor of the six-floor residence hall features Hilltopper

Hub, a 24/7 dining facility, as well as study rooms, a makerspace for group projects, multi-use community rooms, vending and laundry areas, and a patio that overlooks the green space in the "Valley."

The other floors include large kitchens, study space and community areas with views of the WKU campus. Residents' rooms include bathrooms, closets and flexible/functional furniture that allows students to personalize their living space.

Alyssa Weaver, President of the Residence Hall Association (RHA), said the residents of Hilltopper Hall are building traditions and a sense of community. "Living in residence halls is not just about somewhere to sleep. It's also about building and being a part of a campus community that is bigger than just a classroom," said Weaver, a sophomore from Vine Grove, Ky. "I've been able to build relationships with people I probably would never have met without my hall or RHA."

Creating connections and building communities are the foundation of a new era for WKU Housing and Residence Life and a 10-year master plan developed by the Student Life Foundation.

"This really is the beginning of a new era of housing for us," said Dr. Mike Reagle, Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement/Executive Director for Housing & Dining. "The strategic plan for housing calls for a number of things to happen, and this is the first



building block in that. We're very, very excited about it."

The 10-year plan began with renovations at Northeast and Southwest halls then continued with the construction of Hilltopper Hall. Next up is a first-year village to replace Barnes Campbell and Bemis Lawrence halls on the south end of campus.

"Part of the excitement about the first-year village is not only about the buildings we will have down there but with how we are going to create a whole new living environment," Dr. Reagle said.

The first-year village for about 800 students will include two buildings of pod-style living with units of approximately 25 students who will share common space and bathroom facilities. The three pods per floor will be designed as smaller living learning communities. The village will also include park-like green space and might offer dining options.

Work on the first-year village should begin in 2019 with one building opening in 2020 and another in 2021.

"This is a village concept, so it's not that we're just building new housing. We are trying to create something that is much bigger than buildings," Dr. Reagle said. "How do we create a true village down there?"

The opening of Hilltopper Hall has allowed WKU Housing and Residence Life to see that students are willing to pay for amenities they want, but that WKU must maintain affordability and service for all students, he said.

"One of the things that we've consistently tried to do is keep our costs affordable and keep our prices low. But that doesn't allow us to have buildings with higher amenities," Dr. Reagle said, adding that WKU Housing has about 5,000 traditional residence hall beds on campus. "We need to keep our costs reasonable for students who can't afford that, but we also need to have the amenities that some other students who can afford it want. We've got to have different amenities across the scale to meet the needs and desires of students we are trying to recruit and retain."

Hilltopper Hall and the new first-year village are designed to help students build a better community and serve as a home away from home.

"We know that students will stay if they get connected," Dr. Reagle said. "We know that through living learning communities they tend to get connected. It's important to connect them to other students they are seeing in the classroom so that in the classroom and out of the classroom things become a little more linked together. We know if they're linked together they're going to be more successful." ■ TOMMY NEWTON ('84)





BEHIND THE SCENES

BY ROSE REMENTER

In the entertainment industry, WKU has many notable alumni in the spotlight. "We have **Becky Gelke Baker** ('75, L) who was inducted into the WKU Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 2018," said David Young, the Department Head of the WKU Theatre and Dance Department. "**Adam Perry** ('04) is currently in *Frozen* on Broadway. We've also had a number of students gravitate to Hollywood. **Matt Long** ('02) was the lead in a recent Hallmark movie called *Holiday Joy*. **Derek Wilson** ('01) and **Emily Althaus** ('09) have done quite well and have new projects coming out soon. These are just a handful of our talented alumni."

But, it's those alumni who work behind the scenes—the unsung heroes—who truly make the show go on.

"It takes a certain level of humility to work behind the scenes, because the performers are the ones the audience recognizes and the ones who directly receive the applause," stated **Tom Tutino** ('80), the Scenic Design Professor at WKU. "Our job is not essential—performers could perform on a bare stage wearing their own clothes under whatever light is available—but we have the power to make the performance better, more powerful, more entertaining and more visually interesting. We can help the playwright tell their story, help the choreographer communicate their inspiration, help the director convey their vision, and artistically enhance the experience of the audience in ways they sometimes don't even realize or notice because it just seems 'right.'"

"The right scenic environment or costume can help the actor portray their character. The right lighting or sound can communicate the appropriate mood to an audience without the actors saying a word—or without the dancers moving a muscle. So, although not essential—if the design and technical elements were removed—the loss would be significant," continued Tutino.

In this feature, we explore the roles of a few of our graduates and the work they do out of the spotlight—from costuming to carpentry to stage management.



DARRON WEST Cue the music

Darron West ('89) came to WKU from Elizabethtown, Ky., to study Mass Communications and Theatre. Ever since he was a young kid, he was enamored by the theatre, music and all things sound.

But, it wasn't until his time on the Hill that West discovered a career that truly matched both his passion of creating sound and the theatre.

"While at WKU, I primarily designed sound and music for all the theatre and dance pieces," noted West. "In addition to all the designing I was doing, I got a well-rounded theatre education. I acted in a number of shows and directed a couple of times as well, but there was something about sound design that piqued my interest, and it seemed to come naturally to me. It was a case of my career finding me. It was such a new technology at the time, so I got the opportunity to discover and codify the discipline. A few of my WKU professors were the ones who said to me 'Hey, you should be a sound designer!' Frankly, at that point I hadn't even imagined such a job existed. I did a few summers at the Williamstown Theatre Festival and was appointed as one of the Sound Designers at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival down in Montgomery, Ala. By 1990, I was in Louisville as the Resident Sound Designer at Actors Theatre of Louisville (ATL)."

West then packed up and moved to New York City, which he calls home when he's not traveling both nationally and internationally as a freelance sound designer. During his 30-year career, he has been a part of more than 600 productions where he literally puts life and sound into some notable theatre and dance shows.

"A sound designer is basically the person who takes care of everything you hear in the theatre on the night of a performance," explained West. "From the design of the sound system, the making and creating of the sound

effects, as well as the mixing and mic'ing of the actors. If it's a musical, you work with the arranger and the composer to help make the show live in the theatre for the audience. Every show and every situation is different, however, so that's one of the aspects that keeps it exciting and keeps you on your toes."

West has had some major success in the field, including winning a Tony Award.

"*Peter and the Starcatcher* was magical from the first day we started working on it, and we all knew it," stated West. "There are those projects you have in your life where the stars align perfectly and you just ride it like a roller coaster, and *Peter and the Starcatcher* was one of those shows for sure. I'm fortunate that I've had a couple of those shows become bigger than you could possibly imagine. Winning the Tony for *Peter and the Starcatcher* would have to go high on that list, as well as being a part of the original production of *RENT* on Broadway."

West says he didn't go into the career hoping for the recognition of a Tony Award, but he says that night is one he will never forget, especially since it connected him back to WKU.

"The biggest gift of the award was how many old friends I reconnected with as a result," added West. "People I'd gone to WKU with and friends from high school, people coming out of the woodwork with emails and Facebook messages and texts. It took me weeks to reply back to everyone."

West says he has no plans of slowing down workwise. He loves what he does and wants to share his art form with the world.

"Art brings people together and provokes dialogue. It changes your brain and your heart if you let it," said West.

"There are those projects you have in your life where the stars align perfectly and you just ride it like a roller coaster. I'm fortunate that I've had a couple of those shows become bigger than you could possibly imagine."





"A lot of the design and practical courses you take in the Theatre Department start with the question, 'What do you want to learn in this course? It gave me room to explore what I wanted to learn and helped build confidence in my trade.'"



GRACE DELAHANTY It's "sew" about the details

Grace Delahanty ('11) of Louisville, Ky., now calls Vancouver, Canada, home as she spends her long work days as a Union Costume Truck Supervisor. Her current role is for the production of *See*, Apple's newest show on its streaming service.

"I work out of a large semi-truck where I care for and maintain the costumes during filming," explained Delahanty. "I'll clean, repair and pull the costumes for the upcoming work, set dressing rooms and assist the cast as they get ready for work on camera."

On top of that, Delahanty is responsible for keeping continuity in the details.

"Since we shoot scenes and episodes out of order, it is important to keep the articles of clothing and the way in which they are worn consistent so it makes sense to viewers," Delahanty explained. "So, for example, if a character gets in a fight and their shirt gets dirty and then torn, those are levels of breakdown that have to be kept in order of the action."

When Delahanty came to the Hill to study Performing Arts with an emphasis in Costumes, she quickly learned the Department of Theatre and Dance is a family.

"The people you meet become your family, particularly at this point in your life because you leave your family and immerse yourself into this new college world," Delahanty said. "You spend so much time with your new group of people that you have little life outside the department, because you want to be there all the time. I went to

classes with the same people, we ate together, we worked together and we had holidays together. When you spend so much time together, you learn some really important skills: how to get along with people, to communicate and how to work with those you may disagree with, which comes up a lot."

Delahanty said her education at WKU was very valuable, especially the fact that professors created challenging subject matter to enhance her skill set.

"I skipped some of the basic sewing classes because I was already a decent stitcher, and they even created an Advanced Techniques course so I could advance my skill. One professor also helped me out and made an individual directing course because I needed to graduate on time. A lot of the design and practical courses you take in the Theatre Department start with the question, 'What do you want to learn in this course?' This is pretty amazing when you consider the size of the University. It gave me room to explore what I wanted to learn and helped build confidence in my trade."

After graduation, Delahanty worked for the Louisville Ballet as a Firsthand and Backstage Run Crew member, where she would help the dancers with quick changes and repairs between performances. When she moved to Vancouver, Delahanty decided to break into the film community.

"I set my sights on joining the film union, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)," noted Delahanty. "I didn't have film experience, but I was hoping my theatre experience would be enough to get my foot in the door. Luckily, it was a good time for me to apply. There was an influx of work, and I got a call to work on a Disney show shortly after I put in my application. From that point on, it's really been a whirlwind—I've been working consistently since then."

Delahanty has worked on some major films and shows including: *Bad Times at the El Royale*, *Skyscraper*, *Altered Carbon* on Netflix, *Fifty Shades Darker* and *Fifty Shades Freed*, as well as season one of *The Magicians*.

"In all of those shows I have been a Costume Truck Supervisor," said Delahanty. "I sign a lot of non-disclosure agreements, so I don't want to say too much, but I've had a lot of unique experiences. I've had a great deal of funny and awkward moments while dealing with nudity, which is a lot more work, even though people wear less clothing."

Delahanty says she is very happy with her job and as for the future, she can't see herself doing much else.

"I think I've found a place where I fit in the movie industry," admitted Delahanty. "I would like to do some more traveling for work and get on some high-profile shows that will take me to cool places. I see myself eventually working for my Local (IATSE 891) as some sort of union steward or running for an officer position to advocate for fellow members."





RODNEY BARGE Playing with fire

Rodney Barge ('03) a native of Louisville, Ky., moved to Las Vegas, Nev., with no job or place to live shortly after graduating from WKU.

"I moved in with some friends in Atlanta, Ga., where a friend found me a job," explained Barge. "I had five roommates, lived in a three-story duplex and found a second steady job. After the first year I had saved enough money, so I decided to move to Las Vegas with no career or place to live. I eventually found an apartment and took a job at Budget Car and Truck Rental to pay the bills while I applied for theatre jobs."

More than 200 applications later, Barge finally landed his first theatre job in Las Vegas as a Carpentry Stagehand for Cirque du Soleil's show *KA*.

"Stagehands do all the things you don't see," stated Barge. "Every scene change is set up behind the curtain, under the stage or off in the wings. While you are watching one show, another one is happening behind the curtain. We move big, heavy scenery."

Barge also has a part in maintenance repairs and daily safety inspections of all the set. On top of this, he also gets to dabble in special effects like pyrotechnic equipment and flame effects. Barge says this type of work is something he's always loved.

"I've always enjoyed working with my hands," noted Barge. "I went to the Youth Performing Arts School in Louisville, Ky., to learn technical theatre and then to WKU to get my degree in Technical Theatre. I

still have friends from school that I keep up with from time to time. The biggest challenge of putting up a show is the collaboration of talent. The world of entertainment is a small one, and everybody knows somebody."

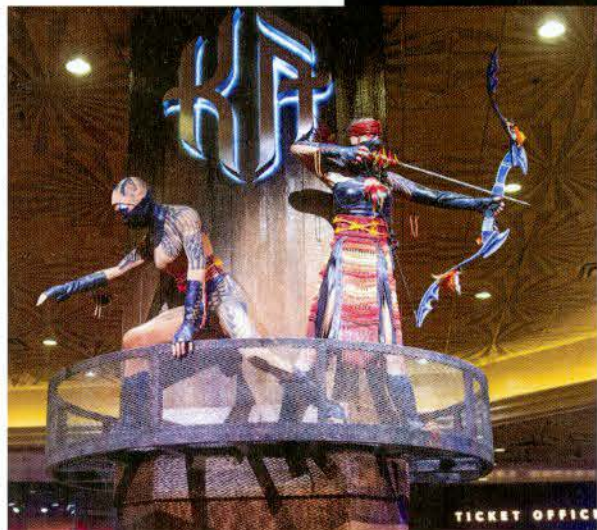
Barge has also traveled for his work, spending two years in Macau, China.

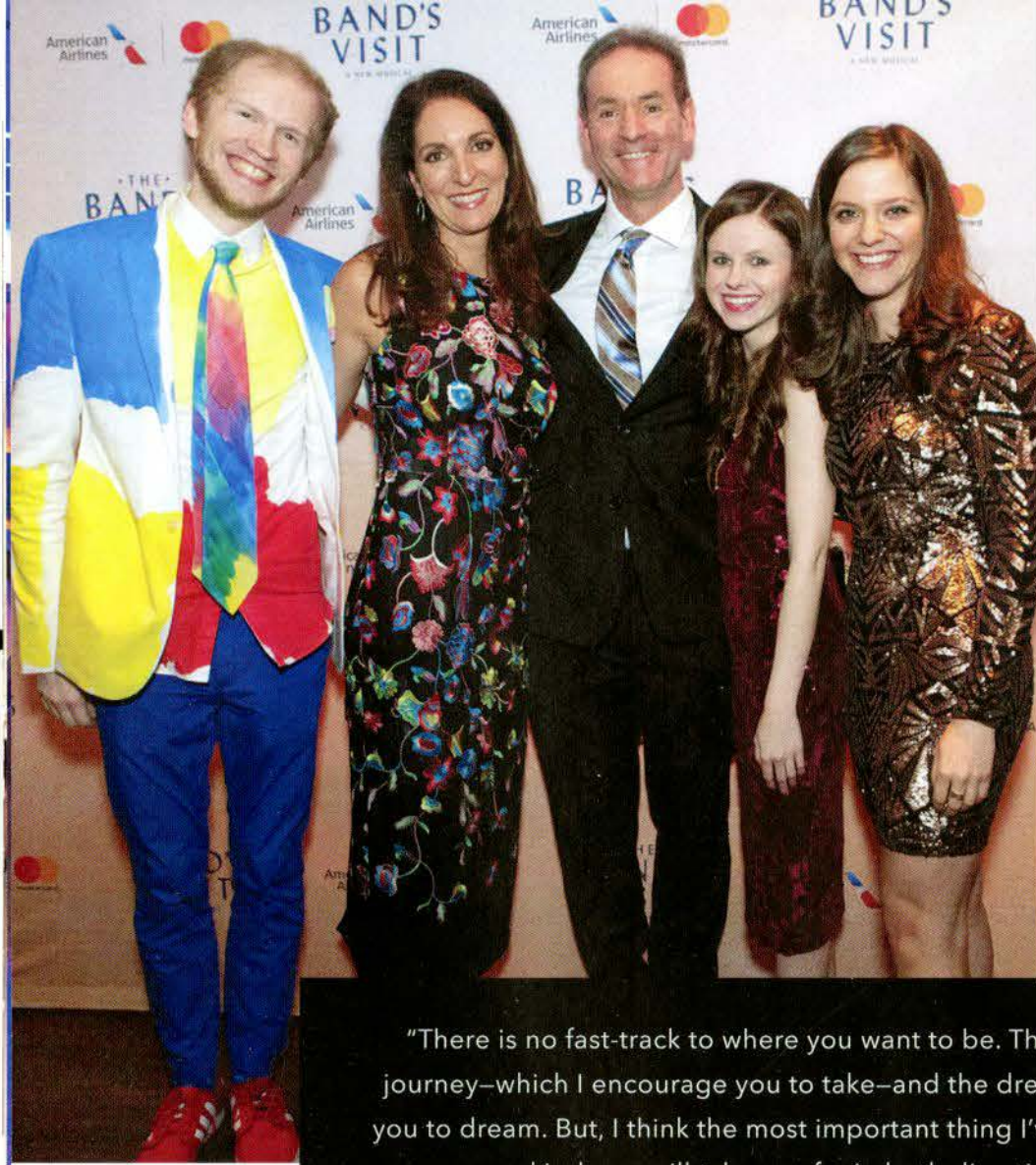
"I lived in China and worked on Cirque du Soleil *Zaia* until the end of the run in 2012," said Barge. "I moved back to Las Vegas to work on Cirque du Soleil *Elvis* to finish the run of the show. I then worked on and opened Cirque Du Soleil *Zarkana*. *Zarkana* finished its run in 2016, and I was offered my original job back at Cirque du Soleil *KA*."

Barge plans to stay put now with Cirque du Soleil. He says the biggest thing he's learned in his more than 10 years in the business is that persistence pays off if you don't give up on your dreams and you keep learning.

"There is a saying that you are only as good as your last gig," added Barge. "What that means is, you are remembered by your work and by those who worked with you. Word of mouth and opinions of you speak louder than whatever may be on your resume. I have helped people get jobs, and I have helped friends avoid hiring potential problem employees. You have to keep an open mind and be willing to possibly accept an opinion from a person you may not agree with."

"There is a saying that you are only as good as your last gig. What that means is, you are remembered by your work and by those that worked with you. Word of mouth and opinions of you speak louder than whatever may be on your resume."





"There is no fast-track to where you want to be. There is only the journey—which I encourage you to take—and the dream—which I beg you to dream. But, I think the most important thing I've learned is that kindness will take you far in both directions."



JOSH GUSTAFSON Managing the stage

It wasn't until his time on the Hill when he was studying Performing Arts that **Josh Gustafson ('13)** learned exactly what his calling in theatre was—becoming a stage manager.

"The stage manager is to a production what a conductor is to an orchestra," explained Gustafson. "The stage manager is more or less behind every moment you see onstage. Every time a light changes, a curtain flies in, or a turntable rotates to reveal a new scene, or even an actor enters—the stage manager called 'GO.' So I'm responsible for handling the running of the physical day-to-day productions that audiences see, as well as facilitating communication between all departments, including producers, creative, design and actors throughout all phases of the production, from rehearsals to performances."

Gustafson said he gained lots of hands-on experience while at WKU, something that helped launch his career.

"I left WKU having stage managed more than 20 different shows in my four-year enrollment, which is a number that shocks my peers and contemporaries who came out of various undergrad programs with maybe five shows under their belts," affirmed Gustafson. "I also took stage management classes, which talked about the job in theory, but so much of what I learned was through my hands-on practicums—actually being in the room where it happens. My professors at WKU helped me secure the actual, physical job as well."

After graduation, Gustafson completed an internship at the Actors Theatre of Louisville (ATL), then worked for both ATL and Goodspeed Musicals, another regional theatre in Connecticut, as a Production Assistant (PA).

"A PA is technically an entry-level position one rung higher than intern in the stage management

hierarchy, and the responsibilities of production assistants vary greatly depending on the institution and the region," Gustafson said. "I conveniently worked at two establishments that placed a lot of faith in their PAs, and I guess I quickly proved worthy of that trust and began climbing the professional stage management ladder. As soon as I joined Actors Equity Association—the union for actors and stage managers—I did one more production at each of these cornerstones of my career before making the big move to New York City."

Upon his arrival to the Big Apple, Gustafson quickly learned he was a small fish in a very large pond. With his persistence, though, he got a job as a PA for a show that no one had heard of at that time.

"That small show was called *The Band's Visit*, which then went on to win 10 Tony Awards a year later," noted Gustafson. "I might have been a very, very small fish, but I now found myself attached to a very, very big boat—one that I've been riding ever since—bringing us all the way to today. I have been in the room where it happens, as they say, with *The Band's Visit* from the very beginning and have witnessed the magical journey from downtown at the Atlantic to midtown at the Barrymore. Now I make trips back to Bet Hatikva, the fictional town where *The Band's Visit* takes place, in between other gigs. I worked on *Sweeney Todd* at Barrow Street as Assistant Stage Manager and then Production Stage Manager between *The Band's Visit* moving from Off-Broadway to Broadway."

Right now, between *The Band's Visit* shows, Gustafson works as the Production Stage Manager of a new play at the Lincoln Center Theatre called *Plot Points in Our Sexual Development*. He says in his short five years post-graduation, he's learned a great deal about the business and doesn't see himself leaving it any time soon.

"I think it's important for me to articulate that there is no 'path' to success," affirmed Gustafson. "Every stage manager I work with has a different story about how they got there. There is no fast-track to where you want to be. There is only the journey—which I encourage you to take—and the dream—which I beg you to dream. But, I think the most important thing I've learned about professional or personal adventures is that kindness will take you far in both directions."



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ALUMNI **AVENUE**

Alumni Association News and Events

HIGHLIGHTS

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Learn more about how the WKU Alumni Association supports graduates through exciting career programs

39 YEAR IN REVIEW

Take a look at the faces and events that made 2018 such a great year for alumni engagement

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HILLTOPPERS @WORK

WKU Alumni Association supports graduates through Hilltoppers@Work career program

Hilltoppers help each other. It's part of our DNA and how we live to exemplify that "The Spirit Makes the Master." The WKU Alumni Association, in partnership with the WKU Advising and Career Development Center, invites you to become part of our Hilltoppers@Work community.

Your relationship with WKU doesn't end once you leave the Hill as a graduate. Your Alumni Association will be there every step of the way to help you maintain your connections to your alumni family, celebrate the accomplishments of your fellow Hilltoppers and gain valuable career advice. To learn more, visit alumni.wku.edu/hilltoppersatwork

Hilltoppers Connect

WKU Alumni Association hosts inaugural Hilltopper Connect event for students and alumni

You've heard of speed dating, but what about speed networking? Recently a group of successful alumni and goal-oriented students were able to take part in fast-paced career mentoring in action through the inaugural Hilltopper Connect event.

Allie Sharp ('13, '15, L), Coordinator of Student and Young Alumni Engagement, was the time keeper, with each pair having four minutes to connect, share career aspirations and gain expert advice. After four minutes, the bell sounded and the students shifted to the next seat to get to know a new alumnus. Student and alumni participants alike said the evening was both enjoyable and beneficial.

"I loved the networking event, because I was able to connect with alumni who have many connections across the country that are in my future career field," said Maddie McClure, a junior Public Relations major from Bowling Green, Ky. "This event allowed me to expand my personal network and make connections because of our shared love and passion for WKU."

Swansea, Ill., senior Matthew Holl, a Business Administration major, agreed.

"Hilltopper Connect was a great opportunity for students to meet and engage with alumni participants," Holl said. "The alumni gave me insight on how to build lasting relationships, while also fostering new connections. I look forward to seeing the growth of this program in the future."

Jeff Key ('90, L), of Bowling Green, Ky., who serves as Senior Director of GPO Strategy at Melinta Therapeutics, said he enjoyed participating as a mentor and learning more about the plans of future graduates.

"I feel that it is very important for us to give back to our students to help them succeed," Key noted. "I wish I had such an opportunity when I graduated."

Jared Holland ('07, '09, L) of Bowling Green, Ky., National Account Manager for Western Express in Birmingham, Ala., also participated as an alumni mentor.

"Connecting with the students at the Hilltopper Connect networking event was a great experience and hopefully as beneficial for them as it was for me," he said. "I only wish I was half as poised as these students were when I was at that point in life. It was a great



event and I look forward to the next one!"

Dr. Anthony McAdoo (L), Executive Director of the WKU Alumni Association, said Hilltopper Connect brings to life the concept of connecting our students to alumni.

"In this organized networking format, students get to apply basic networking skills and learn more about the ways that alumni can connect them to career opportunities," McAdoo explained. "It's also a great way for alumni to meet some of our outstanding students to help them learn about networking and connect to career opportunities."

Interested in serving as a career mentor or in participating in future events? Email us at alumni@wku.edu. ■ **CAROL CUMMINGS ('92, L)**

Academic Career Development Center

New Academic Career Development Center provides valuable services for alumni

Did you know that WKU alumni can take advantage of free career services through the University's Advising and Career Development Center (ACDC)? Through the ACDC, alumni can take part in a variety of services such as resume reviews and interview preparation.

In 2018, the ACDC was created to centralize advising for most freshmen and sophomore students as well as to consolidate services previously available through the Career Development Center.

"With academic advisors for these students in one central location on campus, we are able to provide more consistent advising, better assist students transitioning between majors and make receiving assistance more streamlined and convenient for students," noted Chris Jensen, WKU's Assistant Vice President for Student Success. "This is a best practice that research has shown to increase student retention and persistence to graduation."

In addition, the ACDC integrated career coaches through academic advisors with the goal of enabling students to discuss how they can use academic course work, study abroad opportunities and internships to achieve career success upon graduation.

"This encourages students to consider career impacts early on in their selection of and progression in a major, as well as how their education will prepare them for life post-graduation, rather than receiving the bulk of their career advising during their final year

before degree completion," Jensen explained.

Students are not the only Hilltoppers who can take advantage of these free services. The ACDC also offers a variety of opportunities for alumni. Jensen said alumni can visit the ACDC for cover letter and resume review, mock interviews, interview preparation and use of special Handshake software, which connects students and alumni with employers who have open positions. Academic advising services are also offered for alumni who wish to enroll in additional undergraduate courses or pursue an additional undergraduate degree.

Dr. Anthony McAdoo (L), Executive Director of the WKU Alumni Association, said the new ACDC provides great benefits for alumni.

"For years, the professionals in the Career Development Center have been available to assist alumni with their continued career development needs after graduation," McAdoo said. "Now, with the expanded team and focus in the combined ACDC, they can assist more alumni and also connect students they serve with our expansive network of alumni who are eager to help."

"Alumni are a vital part of the WKU family, and the Advising and Career Development Center is glad to be part of helping all of our graduates continue to be successful in their post-graduation pursuits," Jensen concluded. "As their careers progress and their lives change, they can continue to return to us as a resource for help when needed."



Want to learn more? Stop by the ACDC, located on the second floor of Downing Student Union, contact them by phone (270-745-3095), by email (careerhelp@wku.edu) or visit their website at wku.edu/acdc. ■ **CAROL CUMMINGS ('92, L)**

SHARE YOUR REDTOWELS@WORK PHOTO WITH US!

The Red Towel is an important part of the WKU tradition. We encourage proud Hilltoppers around the world to wave their Red Towels in support of their alma mater. It's simple.

- 1. WAVE IT.** Take your Red Towel with you to work.
- 2. SNAP IT.** Take a photo of yourself at work holding your Red Towel. We encourage you to choose a location that features a unique background or your employer's logo.
- 3. SHARE IT.** Share your photo socially and on the WKU Alumni Association channels.
- 4. TAG IT.** Use the hashtag #RedTowelsAtWork.

You can also send us your photo by email at alumni@wku.edu.





"Week in and week out, he worked harder than anyone else to constantly improve his cooking skills. Anytime we weren't shooting, he took time to indulge in cookbooks and practice his plating technique. His winning the show is really a testament to hard work paying off."

Danny Schrader, Executive Producer for MasterChef

Gerron Hurt ('15)

"The Spirit Makes the Master(Chef)"

It's easy to say **Gerron Hurt ('15)** of Nashville, Tenn., who works as an English and English as a Second Language Teacher for Lead Academy High School, is the Clark Kent of education after competing on and winning *MasterChef* season 9.

Hurt loves teaching because he gets to create life-changing outcomes for his students and encourage them to dream big, which is precisely what led him to compete on *MasterChef*.

"Winning the show has truly showed me that dreams do come true," explained Hurt. "A lot of people get caught up in their everyday lives, and they lose sight of their aspirations because they become so content with what they're used to. Dream big, then execute! It's never too late to chase a dream and never give up on your dreams."

COOKING WITH MAMA

From a young age, Hurt was always in the kitchen with his mom. "From the tender age of 5, I was in the kitchen with my mom almost every night learning the fundamentals of cooking southern cuisine," noted Hurt. "Outside of the kitchen, you would think that our family TV knew no other channels because it stayed on The Food Network and Cooking Channel 24/7! When I wasn't at school, or busy with social activities, I was at home watching the world's best chefs and mimicking techniques and recipes that I saw. I soon began to make the bi-weekly grocery list and daily meals with my mom."

It's this same southern cuisine that helped him claim the title *MasterChef*.



"One of the biggest lessons that I learned on the show was to stay true to myself and my cooking style," added Hurt. "The moment that I started trying to create fancy dishes that had no influence whatsoever, I always fell flat on my face. When I created dishes within my wheelhouse and found ways to elevate them to restaurant quality, I often times came out victorious."

Hurt says the road to winning wasn't an easy path, but much like his teaching career, he learned from feedback.

"The beginning of my *MasterChef* journey was rough. I came into the competition strong, but I was in need of many technical improvements," Hurt said. "Being a teacher, feedback is essential. I took all of the skills that I learned and constantly implemented my feedback day by day. I made sure to never make the same mistake twice or to never continue working with a mistake. I was like a sponge: I soaked up everything around me. My mindset, improved

skills and willingness to learn from everyone are the reasons that I have become victorious."

Hurt says he's made many friends and mentors from the show including Gordon Ramsay himself. Since *MasterChef*, Hurt says he has plans to open a food truck and restaurant venture. His five-year plan is to have his own cooking show on a major television network.

"Gerron was an absolute pleasure to have on the show," said Danny Schrader, Executive Producer for *MasterChef*. "Week in and week out, he worked harder than anyone else to constantly improve his cooking skills. Anytime we weren't shooting, he took time to indulge in cookbooks and practice his plating technique. His winning the show is really a testament to hard work paying off. I'm thrilled for all the success that is due to come his way and couldn't be happier to have him represent the *MasterChef* brand." ■ ROSE REMENTER | PHOTOS COURTESY OF FOX MEDIA

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW



Northern Kentucky Alumni | Hilltopper Send-Off



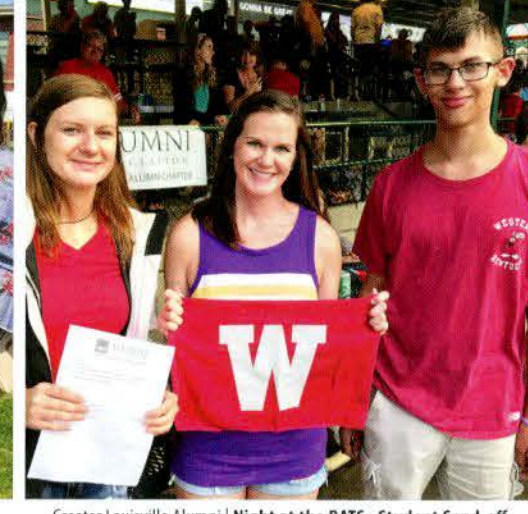
Society of African American Alumni | Homecoming Dance



WKU Homecoming - To The Hill and Beyond | Parade



Young Alumni Council | Red, White and Brew



Greater Louisville Alumni | Night at the BATS - Student Send-off



WKU Alumni Association | Tailgate and Celebrate



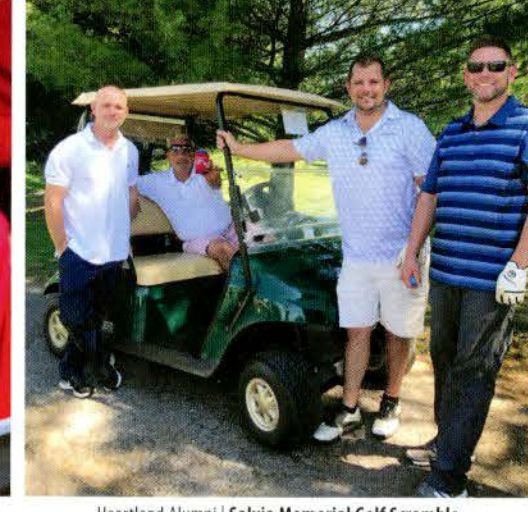
Music City Alumni | Music City John Oldham Alumni Golf Scramble



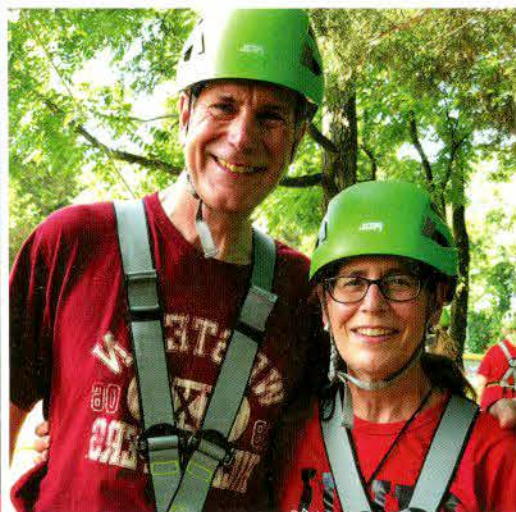
Greater Louisville Alumni | Community Service



WKU Alumni Association | WKU vs Belmont Big Red Rally



Heartland Alumni | Salvia Memorial Golf Scramble



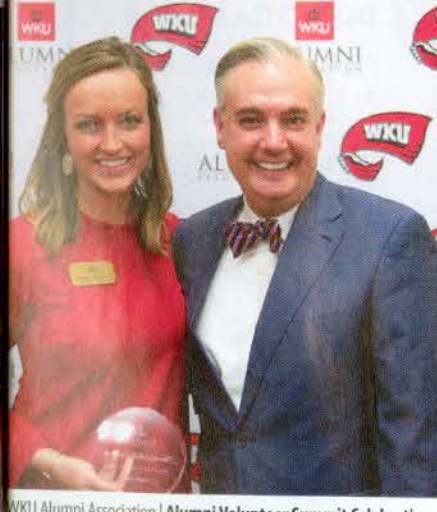
WKU Alumni Association | Alumni College



Greater Louisville Alumni | Lee Robertson Gary Sundmacker Golf Scramble



Alumni Leadership Scholars | Community Service



WKU Alumni Association | Alumni Volunteer Summit Celebration



Student Alumni Ambassadors | Hilltopper Etiquette Dinner

2018
BY THE NUMBERS

115,481
TOTAL ALUMNI

1,004
ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

13,940
WKU DONORS AND
DUES-PAYING MEMBERS

193
TOTAL NUMBER OF
ALUMNI EVENTS

56 CHAPTER EVENTS	13 REGIONAL EVENTS
17 CAREER EVENTS	23 ATHLETIC EVENTS
32 STUDENT EVENTS	30 OTHER EVENTS
8 YOUNG ALUMNI EVENTS	14 RECRUITMENT EVENTS



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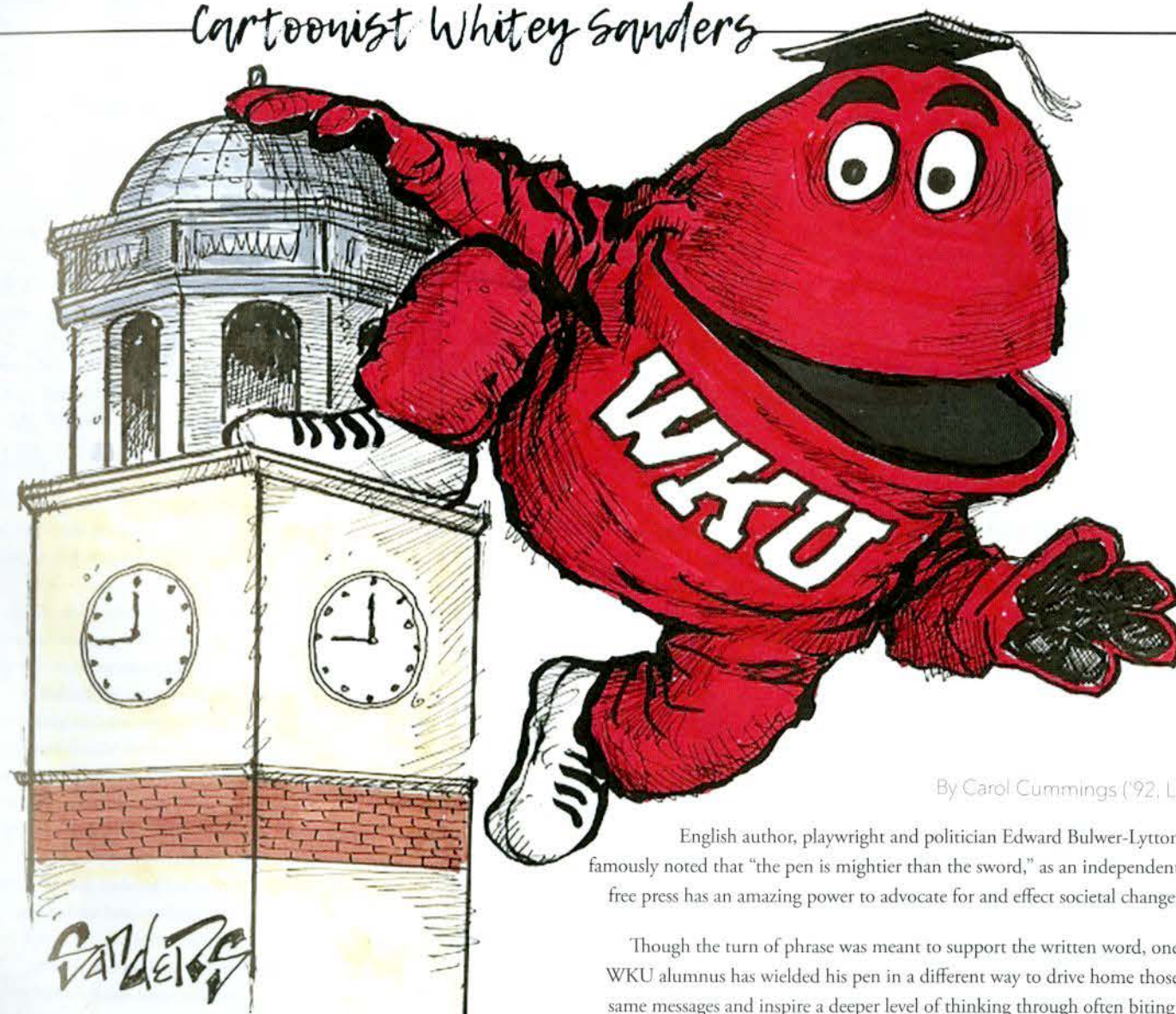
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THE ART OF THE DRAW

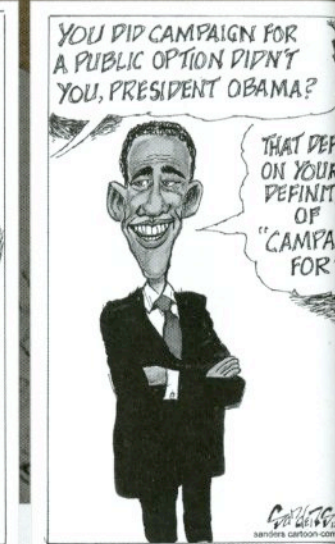
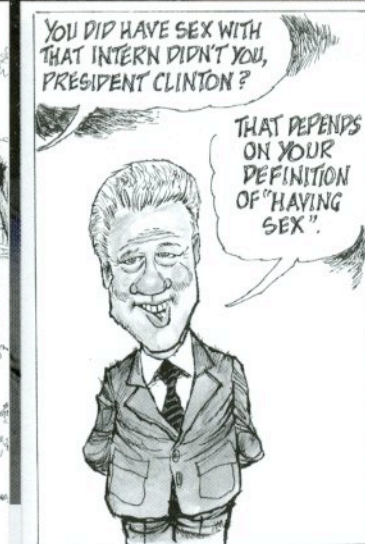
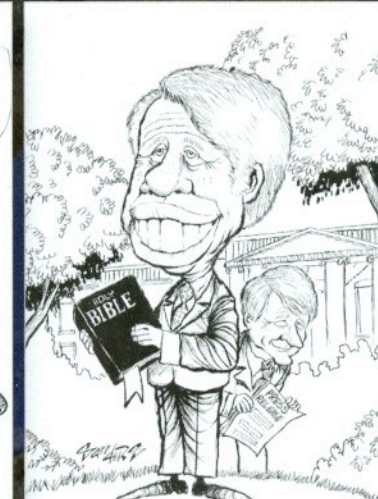
Cartoonist Whitey Sanders



By Carol Cummings ('92, L)

English author, playwright and politician Edward Bulwer-Lytton famously noted that "the pen is mightier than the sword," as an independent free press has an amazing power to advocate for and effect societal change.

Though the turn of phrase was meant to support the written word, one WKU alumnus has wielded his pen in a different way to drive home those same messages and inspire a deeper level of thinking through often biting, sometimes somber and always meaningful political cartoons.

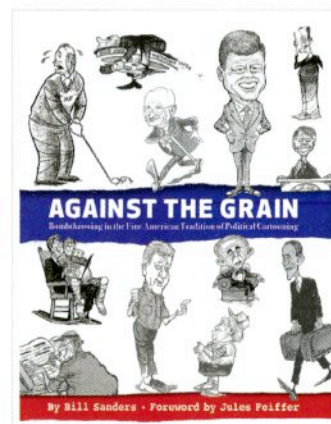


Bill "Whitey" Sanders ('55, L) enjoyed a long and successful career as a political cartoonist, working for 34 years for newspapers that included the *Milwaukee Journal*, the *Greensboro Daily News*, the *Pacific Stars and Stripes* and the *Kansas City Star*. However, his career began in the most unlikely of ways, as he looked for a three-hour course at WKU that "would not require homework." He signed up for a freshman art class under legendary professor and watercolorist Ivan Wilson, and this decision was one that helped shape the course of his life.

"I passed his course," Sanders wrote in his book *Against the Grain*, "but my most valuable accomplishment was getting to know this little giant of a man and siphoning from that experience fuel that would ignite my soul to express itself. Ivan Wilson saw something in me that I did not recognize but that he chose to cultivate in the subtlest fashion."

Noticing Sanders' cartoon character doodles one day in class, Wilson noted, "Now that's interesting. What do you intend to do with it?"

Though that question would not be totally resolved for several years, Sanders' WKU experience continued to gently nudge him toward his calling.



Born in Springfield, Tenn., he came from what he says would now be called "a dysfunctional family," moved a lot and was in a number of different schools in different locations. A football player in high school, Sanders began his collegiate athlete experience at the University of Miami but failed to find his niche. Visiting family and friends in Tennessee after his first semester, his former high school coach suggested that he take a look at WKU.

"From walking and driving on campus, I just immediately felt like this was my kind of place," Sanders reflected. "I went in and wound up talking to Coach (Jack) Clayton, and he put me on a scholarship. It was just a place I felt at home. You were a number in a fashion, but you were a number that a lot of people knew. When I got on campus, I didn't leave to go home for five years because I had no place I wanted to go other than there, even in the summertime."

"To me it was more than just a place for book learning and having a curriculum on your resume," he explained. "It was a place I just enjoyed being. I enjoyed the spirit of the place."

During his freshman year, Sanders' first monumental moment came when he was introduced to a beautiful freshman girl named Joyce Wallace, one of the locally famous twins recruited as a cheerleader by WKU's legendary Coach E.A. Diddle. Married in 1955, the Sanders' love story has now spanned more than 60 years.

In addition to the foundation for his own family, Sanders found an extended family through his WKU Football team members. "We have been friends for 60-something years," he mused. "We know our kids. We know our grandkids. It was like being part of a family. That's a hard condition to find on most university campuses."

His relationship with Joyce Wallace also led to more inspiration for his future career, as he got to know her favorite aunt, Martha Graham, and her journalist husband, Gene, an editorial writer, columnist and cartoonist for the Nashville *Tennessean*.

"On visits to Nashville, I was transfixed by the magic of brush and India ink in the hands of this reddish-haired, freckled man with a ready wit and a keen intelligence," Sanders wrote. "Moreover, it was a revelation that one might earn a living this way."

Back at WKU, the English major began to draw and contribute cartoons to the *College Heights Herald* student newspaper. After graduation, Sanders was commissioned into the U.S. Army and received orders for Korea. Through good timing and a stroke of luck, he was tapped to take command of a small *Stars and Stripes* unit in Seoul. In addition to printing and distributing the paper, as well as supervising the gathering of news, Sanders took up his pen once again, setting up a drawing board and doodling about Army life, a pastime that resulted in a comic storytelling series with his character, Ed Feck, an acronym for "Effective Date of Departure Far East Command."

One evening, on his way to the Officer's Club, he took a shortcut through the base library where he knocked a book off of a table. This book was Herblock's *Here and Now*, with hard-hitting cartoons that provoked thoughts on politics, civil liberties, government and the military. Intrigued, he made his way through half of the book that

evening, and his dream continued to take shape.

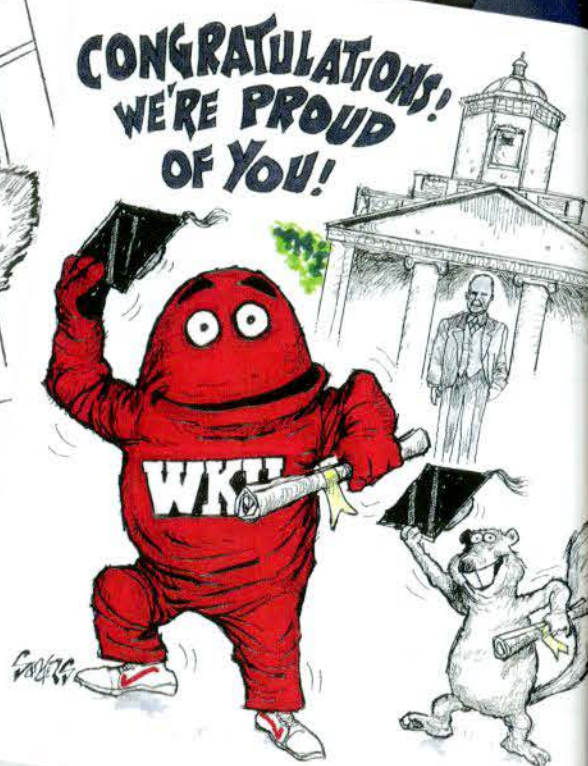
After his Army service, Sanders took a job as a general assignment reporter with the *Pacific Stars and Stripes* in Tokyo, Japan. Though the paper had no spot for cartooning, Sanders continued his craft by freelancing for the *Japan Times*, a Japanese-run English-language newspaper. After two years in Tokyo, the Sanders family, which now included two daughters, relocated to North Carolina, where he took a job as a cartoonist at the *Greensboro Daily News*.

Over the next 10 years, Sanders moved on to the *Kansas City Star* and then the *Milwaukee Journal*, where he worked for an additional 24 years, earned numerous career awards and saw his drawings be syndicated nationally to more than 100 newspapers until his retirement from full-time work in 1991.

From the Vietnam War to national politics, he was never afraid to ruffle feathers, drawing eight U.S. Presidents from Eisenhower to George H.W. Bush. He even traveled to Vietnam and Thailand by way of USO tours, gaining first-hand experience of the atrocities of war. His cartoons also bear witness to the Civil Rights movement, Nixon's Watergate scandal, the Iran-Contra affair and the country's devastating loss of President John F. Kennedy.

"The assassination of John Kennedy was one of the most important events in my life," he noted. "The most difficult cartoon to draw is an obituary cartoon. They are really tough, and I try to stay away from them. One, because you are tempted to become cliché-ish in what you have to say or maudlin in the attitude when often there is more to be said. The problem with the 'more to be said part' is that it either rubs people the wrong way, or they look at it and say you don't know this person."

"When JFK was the victim of an assassination, I asked myself, 'What did he stand for and how does this express the imagery of him as a President moving through history with considerable results?' I happen to have believed that representative of the John Kennedy I knew and had met and had conversation with was more like the realization of what the Statue of Liberty stands for with this country, so I used that as a metaphor," he explained. "How you draw depends a lot on your own character or experience." *



WKU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GRADUATION PRINT SERIES: The prints above are a few of the unique drawings created by Bill "Whitey" Sanders and presented to graduates as a special gift from the WKU Alumni Association.

Sanders spent his early retirement years away from politics, expressing art through sculptures that include one of E.A. Diddle, which is currently on display in the Augenstein Alumni Center at WKU.

As the Clinton era came to a close and the Republican National Convention nominated former Texas Gov. George W. Bush as its Presidential candidate, he says he began to "feel my fire in the belly rekindling." He discovered the power of the internet to gain background information on Bush and set up a blog, *Sanders Cartoon-Commentary*, which he still runs today.

With no plans to stop anytime soon, he enjoys expressing his opinions through drawing.

"I tend to be very opinionated," Sanders said frankly. "Cartooning gives me an opportunity to express more abstract ideas and notions about society and what's going on and hopefully have some influence. What I try to do in a cartoon is to make people think about any given issue, social problem or condition that needs some work. In the book, I have quote from a woman in Wisconsin who did a perfect job. She

made the point that while she didn't always agree with my work, the cartoons made her think. That really is the point."

With his political cartoons, Sanders says he tries not to make any allusions that people won't readily understand by looking at the work. He finds his inspiration from many sources and noted that inspiration is something you often find by accident when something just "totally gets under your skin and tells you that you have to say something about it."

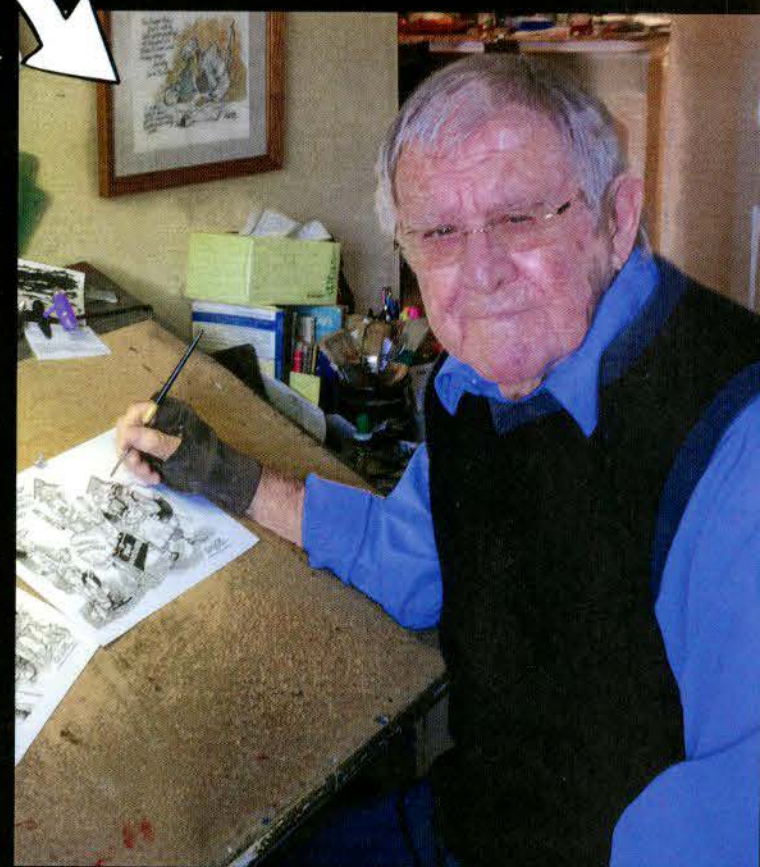
"A cartoon is an iconoclastic form of art designed to make readers give their attention and thoughts to any given issue," he noted. "That doesn't mean that it can't be funny, or must be serious or bizarre or mean-spirited. It may have a little bit of all of that in its content, but it is a presentation of a cartoonist's argument for or against any social or political situation. Herblock of the *Washington Post* was once asked why he drew such critical cartoons. He answered that it was not his intention to be mean-spirited, but that he tried to leave in a cartoon some little pearl of wisdom for the reader, and where would the pearl industry be without an irritant?"

More about Whitey Sanders

Bill "Whitey" Sanders has been listed in *Who's Who In America*, *Who's Who In American Graphic Arts*, and is a member of both the Wisconsin Media Hall of Fame and the WKU Hall of Distinguished Alumni. He has been featured in *Newsweek* magazine and on CBS, NBC, National Public Television and Radio and BBC of London. *Newsweek* once called him an "ornery and unorthodox cartoonist whose stinging bite rivals that of Herblock." *Saturday Review* said his work "could make the opposition gag on their morning breakfast." Presidents, congressmen, senators, ambassadors and the Smithsonian have collected Sanders' cartoons. He and his pen have also been featured in seven books of political essays and cartoons.

Sanders has always maintained close ties to his alma mater. In addition to donating hundreds of his cartoons to WKU's Library Special Collections, Sanders has returned to campus to talk with journalism students about the art of cartooning and the role of journalists in American society. A gallery of his work is also displayed in the Augenstein Alumni Center, and he has regularly partnered with WKU to create original drawings as a gift for the newest WKU graduates. Now living in Ft. Myers, Fla., he and his wife, Joyce, have four daughters and 11 grandchildren.

His 2018 book, *Against the Grain: Bombthrowing in the Fine American Tradition of Political Cartooning*, was published by New South Books and is available at major retailers. His regular cartoon commentary can be viewed at sanderscartoon.blogspot.com.





Cara Owsley ('96) and Cameron Knight ('05)

These Cincinnati Enquirer journalists are what Pulitzer Prize winners look like

In 2018, two WKU alumni joined the likes of Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner and Kendrick Lamar. **Cameron Knight ('05)** and **Cara Owsley ('96)** were part of the team of journalists at the *Cincinnati Enquirer* who made the story "Seven Days of Heroin: This is What an Epidemic Looks Like" possible, and in April 2018, they, along with the rest of the team, received a Pulitzer Prize award for the story.

"Seven Days of Heroin" shares the narratives of real people, children and families affected by the opioid crisis in Cincinnati,

Ohio. The article, accompanied by a 30-minute video story, includes accounts of those in recovery, those who have relapsed and those who have lost loved ones because of addiction. Knight believes the story captures the full scope of the opioid crisis and that's why it is resonating with so many people.

"Hundreds of thousands of people read the story, watched the stunning videos and learned what the 'opioid crisis' really meant," he explained.

"WKU was a humbling experience. It taught me that hard work is essential, but even that isn't enough sometimes in the world of journalism. You need experience, context, insight and a lot of chances to fail before you can succeed."

Cameron Knight ('05)

THE LOGISTICS OF IT ALL

A team of more than 60 reporters found there were at least 180 overdoses, 18 deaths and 15 babies born with heroin-related medical issues during their 30 days of reporting. Owsley said she had never worked on a project of this magnitude.

"The entire week was dedicated to working on Seven Days," she said. "The photo staff didn't shoot any other assignments that week."

Owsley is the Director of Photography at the *Enquirer*. She spent the week helping to coordinate where photographers would be shooting while also working on her own assignments. She said she and the staff were all surprised with the quality of content they were able to obtain.

"These kinds of stories can be a real hit or miss, especially with doing ride-alongs with police officers and fire officials," she explained.

Knight is a Staff Reporter for the *Enquirer*. He spent the week working with the police or on the streets of Cincinnati, chasing down overdose 911 calls and visiting hotspots that were known to be popular for users. It wasn't uncommon for people to be willing to share their stories with him or his colleagues.

"Many of the people suffering from addiction would rather not be, so it's not uncommon for them to be willing to talk to reporters," he added.

He said the story was truly a team effort, and it was a unique experience to know there were dozens of reporters on the streets doing the same work he was doing.

"We all knew the goal: to tell this story on the broadest scale possible by capturing as many personal, individual moments as possible," he added.

THEIR TIME ON THE HILL

Knight grew up just north of Cincinnati in a suburb called West Chester and came to WKU specifically for the Photojournalism program.

"WKU was a humbling experience," he said. "It taught me that hard work is essential, but even that isn't enough sometimes in the world of journalism. You need experience, context, insight and a lot of chances to fail before you can succeed."

Knight said a few of his professors at WKU helped shape him into the journalist he is today, facing challenges as a student that might cause even professional journalists to struggle.

"It pushed my skills and squeezed my work ethic in all the right ways," he added.

Owsley said she's known she wanted to be a photographer since she was just eight years old. When she was in high school, her photography teacher suggested she apply to WKU for photojournalism.

"I didn't know anything about photojournalism, but once I started taking classes I was hooked," she said.

Owsley also believes the professors at WKU helped her become the photojournalist she is today. At least once a year, she returns to WKU to visit one of her old professors and critique current students' portfolios. She said the relationships she made when she went to school here have been incredibly loyal.

"WKU supports their alumni across the globe," she added. "That means the world to us."

WHAT'S NEXT?

Over the past year Knight has been working on writing his first book. He said he always tries to learn at least one new thing a year.

"Maybe this year I'll (learn) to write a book and next year's project will be actually finishing it," he joked.

Owsley said after the Pulitzer Prize win she went back to assisting the photo staff with projects and breaking daily news.

"It didn't change me, but it motivated me and my co-workers to keep doing this kind of work," she said.

After "Seven Days of Heroin" appeared, the *Enquirer* published several follow-up stories on some of the families who were featured in the piece. The *Enquirer* is in the beginning stages of doing another large project like "Seven Days of Heroin" on the subject of poverty. ■ CATRINA COOKSEY (CURRENT STUDENT)

30

DAYS OF REPORTING

AT LEAST
180

OVERDOSES

18

DEATHS

15

BABIES BORN WITH
HEROIN-RELATED
MEDICAL PROBLEMS



TAKING LEARNING TO GREATER HEIGHTS

A look at Meteorology and the White Squirrel Weather Mobile Classroom and Lab

BY ROSE REMENTER

On a rainy, warm Saturday September afternoon, WKU Football kicked off the 2018-2019 home-opener game with the help of the Grammy Award-winning band, Cage The Elephant, who also happen to be hometown boys from Bowling Green, Ky. On top of that excitement, the weather was trying to produce some entertainment of its own with tornado watches and severe weather within the vicinity of the crowded WKU campus.

"There was a tornado watch that extended from the north to the Warren County line, and a confirmed tornado took place 60 miles north of the concert," noted **Dr. Josh Durkee ('00)**, WKU's University Meteorologist, a Professor in the Meteorology Program and Director of White Squirrel Weather and the College Heights Atmospheric Observatory for Students (CHAOS). "There was also a line of strong storms that approached the concert while the event was taking place."

Luckily, during the event, the White Squirrel Weather Mobile Classroom and Forecast Lab was there to make its debut.

"The Cage The Elephant concert provided an excellent opportunity to test the functionality as a mobile-monitoring and forecast lab, as this was a particularly large, high-volume event that took place on a day with potentially inclement weather," stated Dr. Durkee. "We were charged with the instruction to relay to event coordinators any real-time weather analysis that could result in delays, cancellation or early dismissal of the concert."





WHITE SQUIRREL WEATHER



WHITE SQUIRREL WEATHER



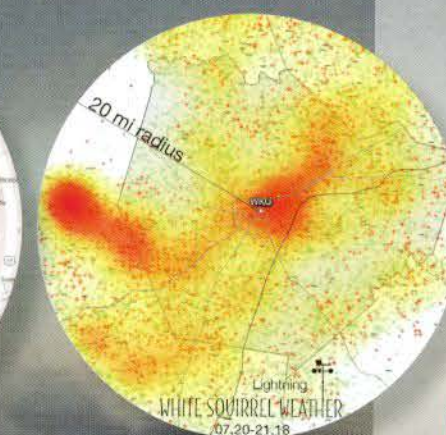
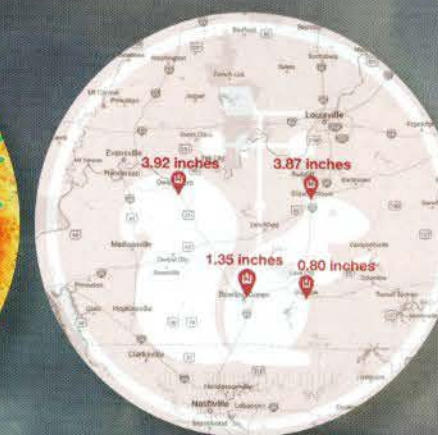
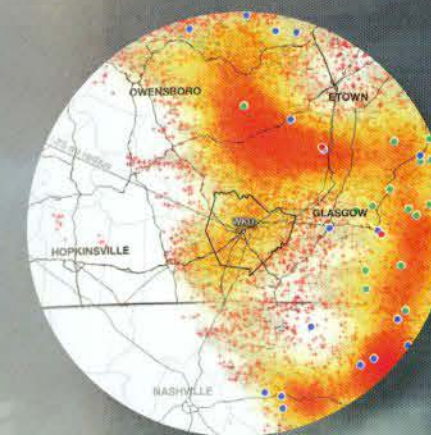
What exactly is a mobile classroom and weather lab?

The mobile lab is equipped with all the technology a meteorologist needs to provide real-time weather on the go at events. The students had multiple hands-on roles during the debut, ranging from forecasting to emergency management.

"During the Cage The Elephant concert, I was stationed in the WKU Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as the White Squirrel Weather representative and forecaster," explained Olivia Cahill, a WKU junior Meteorology student from Dry Ridge, Ky. "It was my job to watch the radar and communicate back and forth with Dr. Durkee as well as the other students stationed at the mobile unit and throughout campus. This experience taught me that it takes several people from several different entities to make an event this large flow smoothly. The experience improved my confidence in my

ability to convey weather information to others."

"On the concert and game day, I helped with the emergency management side of operations by providing situational awareness, which involved several students stationed all around the crowd to keep an eye on the skies and current weather conditions, as well as looking out for people who might need medical attention," explained CJ Padgett, a senior Meteorology student from Belleville, Ill. "Both responsibilities are great to put on my resume, because no one else will have the experience of forecasting for a Grammy Award-winning band and helping with emergency management at their concert."



It's all about hands-on learning: how the mobile lab came to be

The White Squirrel Weather Mobile Classroom and Forecast Lab is not the first hands-on learning experience for the Meteorology Program. The program got its start at WKU at the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year. In 2008, Dr. Durkee was hired to ramp up the Meteorology Program and in 2009, his first initiative was to create the Field Methods in Weather Analysis and Forecast course, more commonly known as the WKU Storm Chase class.

"This class has a competitive entry of eight students each year, and we take the group out to the Great Plains for two weeks for an intensive severe-storms forecasting workshop," explained Dr. Durkee.

"We saw our weather textbooks come to life before our own eyes," described **Kelli McShane ('18)**, the Weekend Morning Meteorologist at WYMT in Hazard, Ky. "Every day we had a forecast discussion, with one student being the daily lead forecaster. After discussion and input from everyone, we chose our forecast target—or where we believed storms would develop—then we would pack up and head out. Keep in mind that we are forecasting a very specific geographical location and a very specific time frame. This is an extremely advanced skill that is crucial to have during severe weather events. A few miles can make a difference with a tornado ripping through a town or a neighborhood."

"It is one thing to read about a certain atmospheric process, or to see pictures of it on a slide, but seeing these processes taking place in real life is a much more rewarding experience,"

added **Greg Docekal ('18)**, who is currently a graduate student in the Geography Department at UNC Charlotte. "Also, since most of the decision making is left up to the students during the trip, it forces us to focus and rise to the challenges that are presented. Personally, this experience helped me become more confident in my forecasting and decision-making skills."

In 2013, Dr. Durkee expanded on the program's hands-on learning endeavors by creating the College Heights Atmospheric Observatory for Students (CHAOS)—a facility that works as a weather monitoring, prediction and research area for students. The lab, located on the top floor of the Environmental Science and Technology Building on WKU's campus, is outfitted with various high-end computing systems, monitors, a conference space and a weather observation deck. The goal is for students to gather and have forecast discussions, work on research, communicate with emergency operations and congregate for peer support.

"CHAOS provides both forecasting and real-time weather data for the University leadership as well as local emergency managers and responders," noted **Dr. David Oliver ('85, '13)**, the Director of Environmental Health and Safety and WKU's Emergency Manager. "This is unique because it provides such an integration of academics and practical experience in an area of continual community need."

But, this wasn't enough. Dr. Durkee decided that CHAOS was too insular of an activity for students, so he and his colleagues decided to expand its horizons.



WKU Meteorology



WKU Storm Chase

- Major recruitment and student engagement and professional training initiative.
- Creativity and Innovation Award by the North American Association of Summer Sessions.



WKU Weather Camp

- Week-long overnight youth camp with over 20 campers from multiple states, including Puerto Rico.
- Major outreach, student engagement, and recruitment initiative. 1st weather camper joined WKU Meteorology Program fall 2017.



Meteorology Laboratory

- Among the top technologically advanced student-learning labs at WKU.
- In addition to many program major courses, this lab hosts nearly 600 Introductory Meteorology (mostly non-majors) students each academic year.



College Heights Atmospheric Observatory for Students (CHAOS Lab)

- Incredibly successful student engagement facility.
- Professional-grade forecast facility for students to conduct daily forecasting, research, weather briefings and training workshops.



White Squirrel Weather

- Wildly successful student engagement, recruitment, retention, and training initiative that utilizes a branded & marketing approach.
- Applied research, professional student service-learning initiative that serves the Western Kentucky University community across the state.



Alumni-relations

- Spirit Funder was first major fundraising effort that brought in \$4800, mostly from alumni.
- Meteorology Program now has an established Foundation Account.



"In 2016, I had the idea for students frequenting CHAOS to provide tangible output in the form of forecast and emergency management services, which is ultimately what paved the path for the launch of White Squirrel Weather (WSWX), where students currently do just that," said Dr. Durkee.

"We went to dinner one night and mapped out WSWX on a napkin," explained **Jonathan Oglesby ('92, '16)**, an Instructor in the Department of Geography and Geology, and the Science Communication Director for White Squirrel Weather and the Meteorology program. "Dr. Durkee and I work hard to create not just content, but meaningful content that is memorable and educational. My main role is to facilitate the visual design, communication and outreach. Moreover, I work alongside Dr. Durkee to help coordinate the students and manage the activities of WSWX."

WSWX is something that students and alumni say provides valuable learning tools and experiences. Daily, the students put together forecasts, monitor any potential weather events, and communicate to the public via social media and their website and app. They also keep University officials in the loop of any weather that could impact campus or the community.

"I am proud to say I got to witness White Squirrel Weather come alive during my last two years at WKU,"

noted **Paige Noel ('18)**, the Weekend Evening Meteorologist for WYMT in Hazard, Ky. "I was one of the social media directors of WSWX, and I started both the Instagram and Snapchat accounts. The Snapchat account was challenging because it was something I had to constantly keep up with. I am thankful for that, because it has helped me with my career today. A lot of my current job is posting on social media and keeping my viewers updated throughout the day. This was what I was doing as a social media director at WSWX."

"Communication in the meteorology field has become increasingly important over the past few years, and WSWX gives students the opportunity to communicate difficult information concisely to people who don't understand it," added **Pierce Larkin ('18)**, a GIS Specialist for Atmos Energy in Murfreesboro, Tenn. "As the lead forecaster for the first three semesters that WSWX was in existence, the expectations for me in that role helped me develop as a leader, practice time management skills and hone my forecasting skills. The value of this experience really cannot be expressed enough, as this put me at an advantage going into the field."



Looking to the future

Everyone involved with the mobile classroom and weather lab say the Cage The Elephant concert and WKU Football game were just the beginning.

"The plans for the unit currently focus on two areas," said Dr. Oliver. "The first is to provide a platform for our students to help educate the public on the importance of understanding weather and the impact it has on our daily lives at larger public events such as WKU Football games and other community gatherings. Secondly, we see the opportunity to allow the students to teach weather as a science to P-12 students as an outreach to schools across the WKU service areas."

And, at the end of the day, it's all about providing the best hands-on learning for their students.

"White Squirrel Weather and the mobile lab embodies the idea of student-centered applied research by applying theory-to-practice-based services for the entire WKU community," said Dr. Durkee. "Numerous employers in private, government and academic sectors have communicated to me directly that professionalized learning and workforce training experiences such as the WKU Storm Chase, CHAOS, White Squirrel Weather and the mobile classroom/forecast lab are key in the WKU Meteorology program's success of post-graduate placement. I firmly believe these experiences and documented student successes play a critical role in strong recruitment and retention for the WKU Meteorology Program, which has experienced greater than 600 percent growth since it was launched in 2007."

TO SEE WSWX IN FULL FORCE, VISIT: WKUWEATHER.COM @WKUWeather
DOWNLOAD THE APP IN THE [APPLE APP STORE](#) AND ON [GOOGLE PLAY](#)

Let's put CHAOS on wheels

In 2018, Dr. Durkee and his colleagues decided to make CHAOS mobile—rather than just letting the weather come to them.

"Dr. David Oliver, Jonathan Oglesby and I put together the idea to repurpose a 15-year-old trailer and convert it into a modern mobile classroom and weather forecast lab," explained Dr. Durkee. "The mobile unit gives students an excellent opportunity to provide exciting outreach learning experiences for school groups and during public events. Further, students can set up on site to monitor and predict weather conditions for (private) events. Together, the WSWX mobile unit benefits student learning by providing opportunities through the practice of meteorological monitoring, real-time predictions and through education outreach."

It's through these innovative hands-on initiatives that WKU Meteorology students are making the most of their learning.

"Students who have opportunities to actively practice the skills they acquire in classrooms and laboratories develop a higher confidence level and documented experience that enhances their potential to secure a career in their field of study," said Dr. Oliver.

"The WSWX partnerships provide these opportunities both internally to the University and externally with government and industry. Our students have repeatedly demonstrated a willingness to serve our University and community with a high degree of competence and professionalism."

Besides the hands-on learning, another perk for students with WSWX and the mobile lab is that they get to influence University officials when it comes to weather closures and delays.

"If there's a winter weather threat, we get to make a forecast and that, in turn, influences the University's decision to shut down or stay open," said Evan Hatter, a senior Meteorology student from Frankfort, Ky. "We get to see our forecasts influence actual real-life decisions."

"It is one thing to make a forecast in class for a grade, but providing forecasts to the University to use to make major decisions about classes, graduation, games and events is a rewarding feeling, because it shows that the University trusts its Meteorology students to provide important weather details," added Padgett.



WHITE SQUIRREL WEATHER.

White Squirrel Weather is a student-centered, applied research initiative that leverages expertise within the [WKU Meteorology Program](#) to provide real-time hyperlocal weather observations and forecasts for the WKU campus and its community partners.



**Forecasting Emergency Management Broadcasting
Social Media Coding & Development**

White Squirrel Weather provides pertinent, customized forecast services and support for inconvenient or hazardous weather impacts for specific locations or events. Students in this operative get exciting workforce training while gaining advanced, employable skillsets that promote career placement.



Download our free mobile app that displays real-time conditions for each White Squirrel Weather station with stunning time-lapse sky camera videos, hourly forecasts, radar, and lightning information.



RED • WHITE & BREW

JOIN THE YOUNG ALUMNI COUNCIL

4.27.19

SUPPORTING THE WKU YOUNG ALUMNI COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



*The 4th annual Red, White & Brew –
featuring local Kentucky brews and wines!*

APRIL 27, 2019

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM • WKU South Lawn

The WKU Young Alumni Council is excited to share in a day of brews, tunes and fun with the Bowling Green community. This event for those 21 and above benefits the Young Alumni Council's Scholarship Fund for upperclassmen students at WKU.

Purchase tickets online at alumni.wku.edu/rwb19

Tickets include beer/wine, complimentary meal, free on-campus parking, access to all RWB vendors

Looking to sponsor or become a vendor?

Contact allie.sharp@wku.edu for sponsorship inquiry or visit alumni.wku.edu/rwbvendorform to register.



Kristin (Wilcox) Duvall ('10) and Ben Duvall ('11, '14)
of Bowling Green, Ky., welcomed their daughter,
Addison Shae, on Aug. 8, 2018.

HILLTOPPER **NATION**

from Alumni Around the World

HIGHLIGHTS

60 RED TOWEL TRAVELS

Check out these adventures of the Red Towel, as alumni share the WKU Spirit during their travels

64 TOPPERS IN THE PROS

Meet former Hilltoppers who are in the professional ranks

68 AROUND THE GLOBE

Former international student Daniel Salami ('17) balances full-time career and guardianship of brother

70 CLASS NOTES

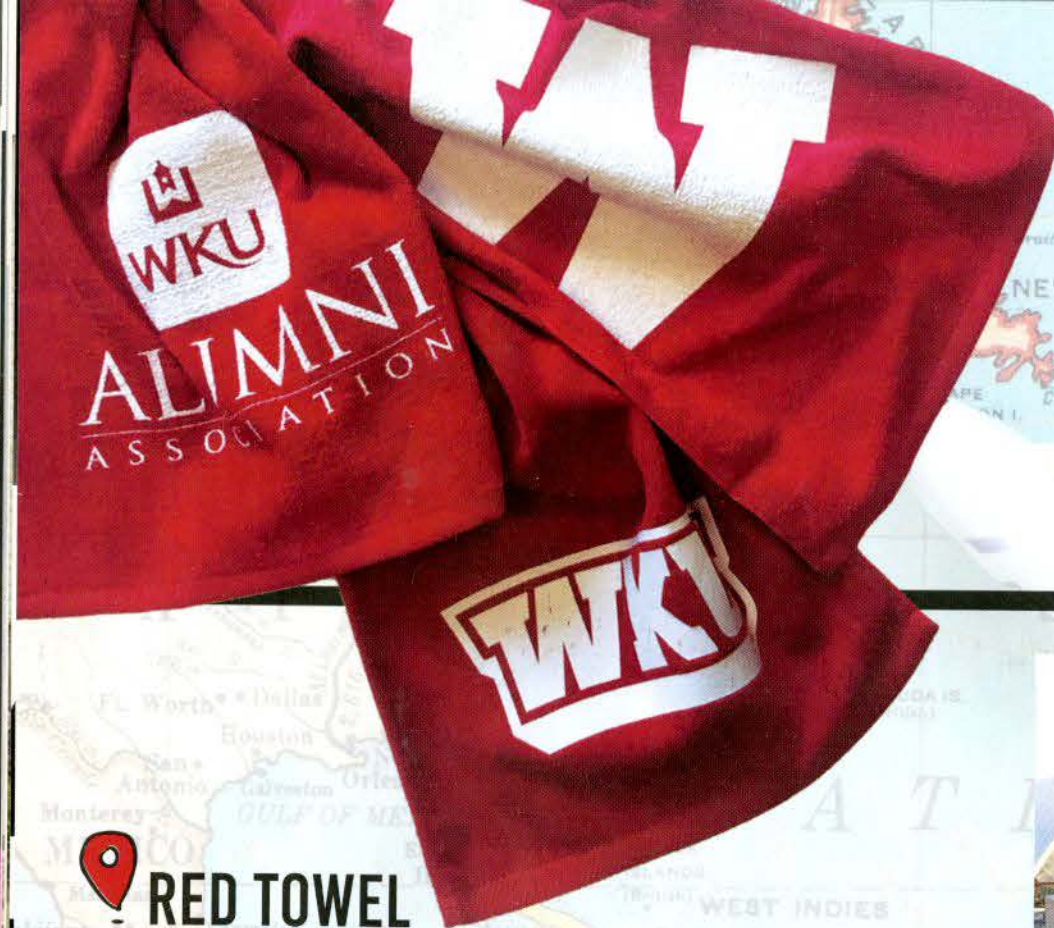
See the latest news from your fellow classmates

75 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

Clarice Esch ('14) earns prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

77 IN MEMORIAM

The WKU Alumni Association pays tribute to members of our Alumni Family who have recently passed away



RED TOWEL TRAVELS

ALUMNI.WKU.EDU/REDTOWELTRAVELS

RED TOWEL

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!

Please list names of each person in picture and their graduation year. Also include date and location of picture and send your pictures to: WKU Alumni Association, Red Towel Travels, 292 Alumni Ave. Suite 309, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or email to alumni@wku.edu.
*Pictures will not be returned.



Melodie Bingham ('94) and Billy Bingham ('87) at the Sydney Opera House in SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, in July 2018.



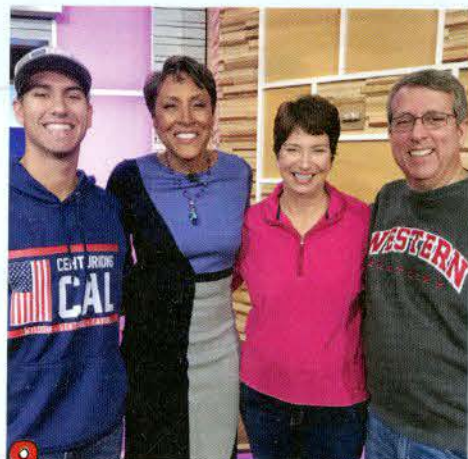
Brian Lightsy ('07), Andrea (Tolbert) Lightsy ('06) and Kahlil Lightsy in PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, in July 2018.



Phil Barnhouse ('92, L) at the NASDAQ Stock Market in NEW YORK, N.Y., in July 2018.



Tom Yunt ('77, L) and Marianne Yunt ('10, L) at the top of Mount Pilatus in LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND, in October 2018.



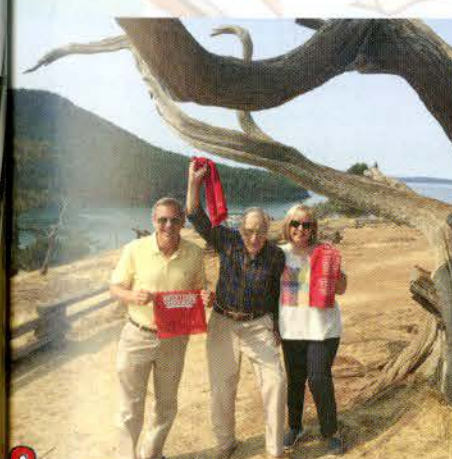
Barrett Gray (Future Hilltopper), Robin Gray ('86, '88, L) and David Gray ('86, L) with Robin Roberts on the set of Good Morning America in NEW YORK, N.Y., in October 2018.



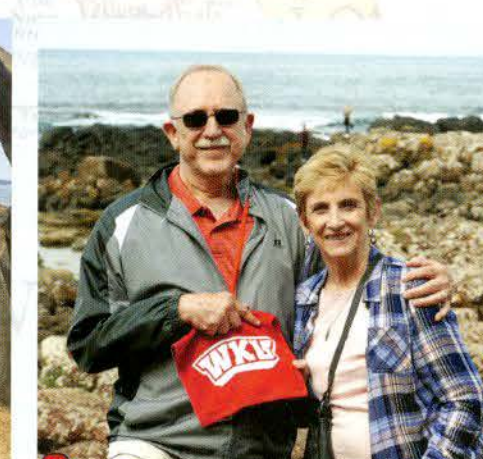
Jonathan West ('96) and Mechelle West ('94) in DELPHI, GREECE, in July 2018.



Sue Dupart ('81, '82, L) in NAIROBI, KENYA, as part of a volunteer dental professional trip in September 2018.



Dr. Thomas Weakley ('80, '81), Dr. Robert Mounce (Former Faculty and Academic Dean of Potter College 1969-1980) and Laurie Pruitte Weakley ('77, '79) in ANACORTES, WASH., in summer 2018.



Allan Howard Harvey ('69, L) and Vicki Bachman Harvey ('68, L) at the Giant's Causeway in COUNTY ANTRIM, NORTHERN IRELAND, in August 2018.



Benjamin Simms ('10), Kailey Anderson ('15), Ashlie Glenn ('13) and former Hilltopper Matthew Neal at the Louvre Museum in PARIS, FRANCE, in December 2018.



Sanchez Lopez ('88) (center) with Drew Scott (left) and Jonathan Scott (right)

Santos Lopez ('88)

From dreams of being a pirate to the reality of working as an HGTV producer, Santos Lopez ('88) recounts his career journey

During a fall evening on the Hill, hundreds of WKU students, faculty, staff and community members packed into the Downing Student Union Auditorium to learn from WKU alumnus **Santos Lopez ('88)**, of Knoxville, Tenn. Lopez is Lead Creative and Executive Producer for various HGTV shows including *Brother vs. Brother*, *Property Brothers*, *Home Town* and *Flipping the Block*.

His presentation included his tips on creating your own brand, marketing yourself and interviewing for jobs, as well as a video from the *Property Brothers*, Jonathan and Drew Scott, and a live FaceTime session with Ben and Erin Napier, the stars of the HGTV show, *Home Town*. Lopez's advice is simple: be true to who you are and believe in yourself.

"Hustle, improvise and be epic in every single thing you create," said Lopez. "The biggest competition is your own self-doubt. If you do not think you can do it, not a single employer will believe in you. Make yourself a promise to be relentlessly positive and know that, in the end, everything works out if you believe in yourself."

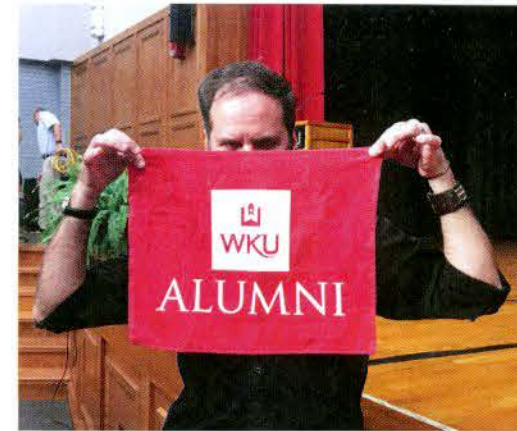
PIRATE DREAMING

Lopez grew up in Caracas, Venezuela, and as a child he dreamed of becoming a pirate. Even at a young age, it was his wild imagination and need to express himself that led him to realize his passion for visual storytelling.

"I was always looking for a different point of view or ways to express myself, first through photography and then storytelling," explained Lopez. "I think I still have my First Communion invitation card in which I hand-drew a giant robot who was fighting dinosaurs and jets. Throughout my career, my employers have come to rely on me for 'the big idea,' so I have been fortunate to be able to harness my wild flights of creative fancy into impactful, memorable promo campaigns and videos that bring big ratings or product awareness."

Lopez honed in on his personal brand of "groundbreaking creative that connects" during his time on the Hill.

"The faculty and staff at WKU were instrumental in preparing me for the long road ahead," added Lopez. "I knew coming in that I



Sanchez Lopez ('88)



Sanchez Lopez ('88) (right) with Drew Scott



Sanchez Lopez ('88) (right) with Jonathan Scott

had one shot at making this happen, and my WKU professors helped mold me from a former Venezuelan beach bum with big ideas into an honor graduate with a killer demo reel. The faculty took me seriously and saw potential in me, which, as an immigrant with an accent and wild 80s hair, was the greatest confidence and morale booster I could ever have. Since they expected big things from me, I did not want to disappoint them after graduation."

His career has taken him on many adventures, from shooting surgical videos to arranging furniture with Joanna Gaines of *Fixer Upper*.

"It's been long and full of surprises," Lopez said. "I've ridden a WWII B-17 Bomber, been at the Presidential Palace in Costa Rica, met the entire surviving cast of *The Dukes of Hazzard*, hung the *Property Brothers* from a deaccelerating stunt harness, drunk Cuban coffee with Vanilla Ice and directed Bobby Brown, Maureen McCormick (Marcia Brady) and Dee Snyder of Twisted Sister, all on the same day."

In his current role at Discovery, Inc., Lopez writes pitches and concepts daily and attends creative meetings. He says he's always researching what Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google are up to, as well as the latest design, digital, music and movie trends.

"When I write, I strive to be relevant and find messages that connect with our demographic," Lopez said.

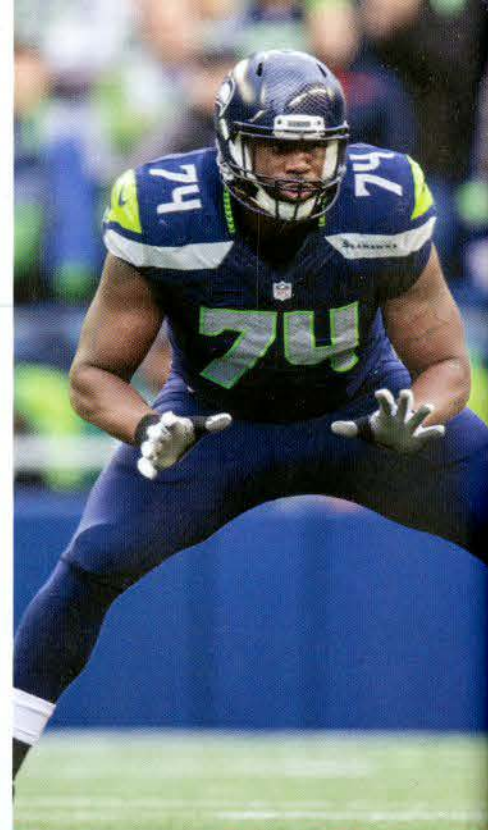
He also gets to work directly with the talent to create some very entertaining promotional videos.

"The best thing about working with HGTV talent is that they are not just incredibly talented designers and builders, but they exude warmth and a true desire to help others achieve their dreams," noted Lopez. "I have established very close relationships with many of them, especially Jonathan and Drew Scott and Erin and Ben Napier. It has been quite the ride to be part of the team that has helped them grow from 'those twins on HGTV' and 'that sweet couple from Mississippi' to major entertainment personalities with Drew's stint on *Dancing with the Stars* and the Napiers' book tour and new American-made furniture line."

Even with the closeness of their relationships, at the end of the day, Lopez says it's most important to focus on the brand.

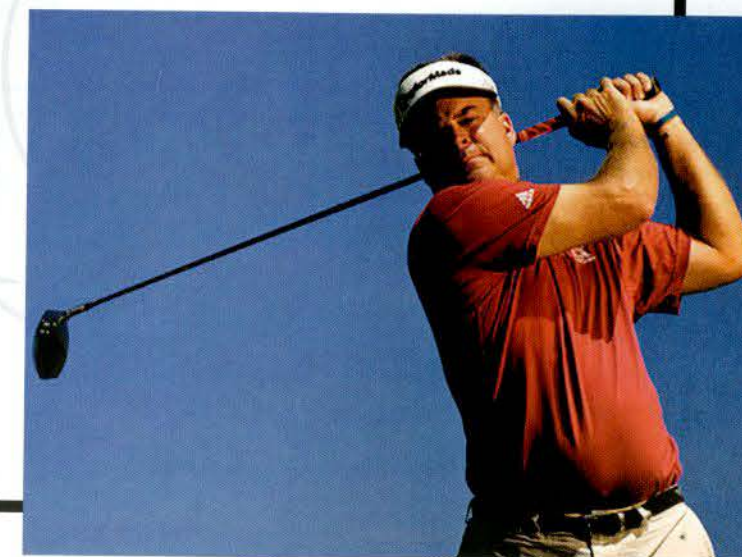
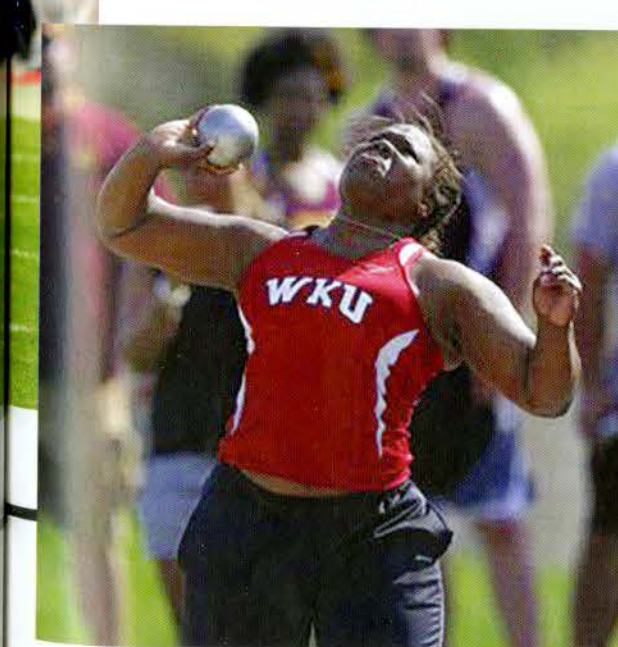
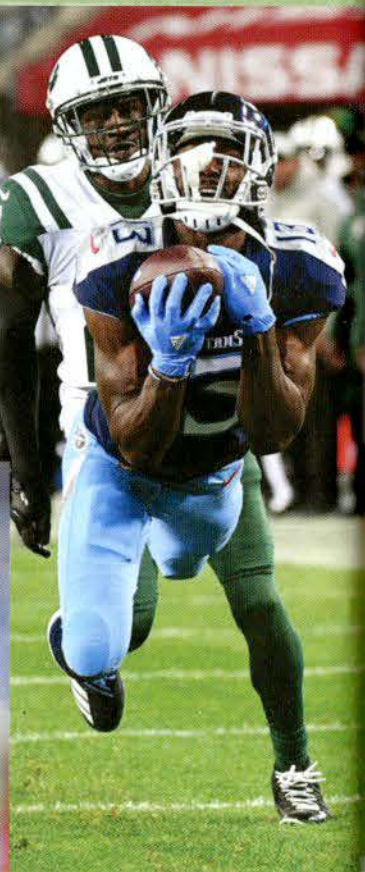
"Professionally speaking, I have a clear brand proposition while working with all talent," explained Lopez. "It's okay to have fun with them, but I never make fun of what they do or make fun of our viewers. I respect and uphold the talent's own brand and vision, since they are professionals who, much like us, have a sterling reputation to uphold. During promo production, we never cut corners. I strive to live up to the standard of 'good is the enemy of great,' since our programming and brand truly reflect that." ■ ROSE REMENTER

FOOTBALL
BASKETBALL
TRACK AND FIELD
GOLF



TOPPERS IN THE PROS

Western Kentucky University has seen many of its former student-athletes go from The Hill to the professional ranks.



FOOTBALL

In the National Football League alone, the Hilltoppers have nine professional athletes across eight teams.

JACK DOYLE ('13)

Tight end **Jack Doyle ('13)** is currently playing for the Indianapolis Colts and has 200 career receptions for 1,728 yards and 14 touchdowns.

TAYWAN TAYLOR

Wide receiver **Taywan Taylor** was someone known for his speed and ability to get open, and those qualities have translated to the NFL. Taylor was selected 72nd overall in the 2017 NFL Draft by the Tennessee Titans, where in his short career he has 53 receptions for 697 yards and two touchdowns.

GEORGE FANT ('15)

George Fant ('15) was an undersized power forward for Western Kentucky Basketball but his strength and athleticism has translated very well into in the NFL. Fant is currently signed with the Seattle Seahawks, where they have found a role for him as an offensive tackle and blocking tight end. He was a key piece to the offense's success this past season.

TYLER HIGBEE ('16)

In 2016, the Los Angeles Rams drafted tight end **Tyler Higbee ('16)** in the fourth round. In his career, Higbee has 60 receptions for 672 yards and four touchdowns.

MIKE WHITE ('17)

Quarterback **Mike White ('17)** is currently playing for the Dallas Cowboys.

JOEL IYIEGBUNIWE ('18)

Linebacker **Joel Iyiegbuniwe ('18)** is currently playing for the Chicago Bears.

DEON YELDER ('17)

Tight end **Deon Yelder ('17)** is currently playing for the Kansas City Chiefs.

DARRELL WILLIAMS JR. ('16)

Offensive lineman **Darrell Williams Jr. ('16)** is on the Los Angeles Rams practice squad.

FORREST LAMP ('17)

Offensive lineman **Forrest Lamp ('17)** was drafted in the second round by the Los Angeles Chargers and is currently working his way back from an injury.

HILLTOPPER BASKETBALL

WKU Basketball has also seen many great players come through E.A. Diddle Arena, and currently boasts 21 professional players spread throughout the world.

COURTNEY LEE ('08)

In 2008, the Orlando Magic used the 22nd pick in the NBA Draft on **Courtney Lee ('08)**. Recently traded to the Dallas Mavericks, Lee played for the New York Knicks and tallied 7,590 points in 771 career games at press time. With 10 years in the league, he's the longest-tenured Hilltopper ever in the NBA.

ORLANDO MENDEZ-VALDEZ ('09)

Former Sun Belt Player of the Year, **Orlando Mendez-Valdez ('09)** is playing in Mexico for Soles de Mexicali.

JUSTIN JOHNSON ('17)

Justin Johnson ('17) continues to play basketball and is playing in Italy for Cagliari.

DARIUS THOMPSON

Former Hilltopper **Darius Thompson** is playing for Leiden in the Netherlands.

PANCAKE THOMAS

Pancake Thomas is playing in Slovenia for KK Zlatorog Lasko.

A.J. SLAUGHTER ('10)

A.J. Slaughter ('10) is currently in France playing for Asvel.

T.J. PRICE ('15)

T.J. Price ('15) is located in Hungary playing for Egis Kormend.

STEFFPHON PETTIGREW ('11)

Steffphon Pettigrew ('11) is playing in Argentina for Penarol.

A'DARIUS PEGUES

A'Darius Pegues is playing for Leones in Nicaragua.

JUAN PATTILLO ('11)

Juan Pattillo ('11) is in the Canada NBL playing for the Moncton Magic.

JUNIOR LOMOMBA ('17)

Junior Lomomba ('17) is in Norway playing for Froya.

BEN LAWSON ('17)

Ben Lawson ('17) is playing in Japan for Fukuoka.

SERGIO KERUSCH ('11)

Sergio Kerusch ('11) is in Germany playing for Mitteldeutscher.

KEVIN KASPAR ('14)

Kevin Kaspar ('14) is currently playing in Turkey.

JEREMY EVANS ('10)

Jeremy Evans ('10) is playing for Darussafaka.

AARON COSBY

Aaron Cosby is in Uruguay playing for Colon.

DWIGHT COLEBY

Dwight Coleby is currently in Belgium playing for Liege Basket.

TYRONE BRAZELTON ('08)

Tyrone Brazelton ('08) is playing in Greece for Ifestos.

JAPETH AGUILAR

Japeth Aguilar ('09) is playing in the Philippines for Barangay Ginebra.

LADY TOPPER BASKETBALL

Lady Topper Basketball also has a couple of professional athletes playing overseas.

ALEXIS GOVAN ('14, '17)

Alexis Govan ('14, '17) currently plays in Greece for PAOK Thessalonikis.

TASHIA BROWN ('18)

The most recent graduate, **Tashia Brown ('18)**, is playing for AO Sporting Athens in Greece.

TRACK AND FIELD

In addition, Western Kentucky University has some notable track and field athletes competing in professional circuits.

JESSICA RAMSEY ('14)

Jessica Ramsey ('14) is currently throwing discus and has competed at the Olympic Trials as well as many other track and field championships across the world.

RAIGO TOOMPUU ('06)

Raigo Toompuu ('06) was an Estonian athlete who competed in the 2012 Olympics in London, where he threw shot put.

EMMANUEL DASOR ('17)

Emmanuel Dasor ('17) was born in Ghana and specializes in the 200- and 400-meter race. He represented his country in the 2016 World Indoor Championships that were held in Portland, Ore.

JULIUS MORRIS ('15)

Julius Morris ('15) was born in Montserrat and runs the 100- and 200-meter race. He holds records for Montserratian track and field sprinters including the 100- and 200-meter race, and he competed at the 2015 World Championships in Beijing.

MICHELLE FINN ('11)

Michelle Finn ('11) is an Irish-born runner competing in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Finn represented Ireland in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio and also competed in the World Championships in 2015.

SHADRACK KIPCHIRCHIR

Former Hilltopper **Shadrack Kipchirchir** is a Kenyan-born distance runner who specializes in the 10,000-meter race. Kipchirchir competed in the 2016 Rio Olympics and at the 2018 World Championships. He also enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2014 and joined the U.S. Army World Class Athlete program.

GAVIN SMELLIE

Former Hilltopper **Gavin Smellie** is a Jamaican-born Canadian sprinter who specializes in 4 x 100 relay race. He competed in the 2012 Summer Olympics and was also selected to represent Canada at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The other athletes representing WKU are former Hilltoppers **Kristo Galeta**, **Elvyonn Bailey** and **Venatavius Dasor**.

GOLF

KENNY PERRY

In professional golf, former Hilltopper and WKU Hall of Distinguished Alumni honoree **Kenny Perry** is one of the most successful WKU Hilltopper products on the course. Perry, who resides in nearby Franklin, Ky., has represented WKU in outstanding fashion since turning pro in 1982.

Since then, he has won 14 events on the PGA Tour and 10 events on the Champions Tour, including four senior major championships. According to ESPN, Perry ranks 26th among all-time PGA money leaders.

Western Kentucky University and Bowling Green have been home to many great professional athletes, and current Hilltopper student-athletes also represent a very bright future for opportunities in professional sports. ■ **JEFFREY CROSLLEY (CURRENT STUDENT)**



His brother's keeper

Former international student Daniel Salami ('17) balances full-time career and guardianship of brother

Daniel Salami ('17) clicks his mouse on his triple-screen computer. His office cubicle at Fruit of the Loom in Bowling Green, Ky., holds extra brightness thanks to the neon orange shirt he is wearing. He shifts from his computer and speaks as he squeezes a mini basketball. His younger brother is playing basketball this year; he's 6'2" and on a local high school team. Salami is quite proud of his brother, especially since he is his brother's legal guardian—a title he gained before graduating college.

Salami is originally from Lagos, Nigeria, one of the most bustling cities in Africa. He finished high school when he was 15. He applied to one of Nigeria's medical schools to be a surgeon, but the school denied him entry because he was so young. He knew he wanted a quality education and eventually found his way to WKU. Immediately after arriving, he found that WKU held internationalization in high regard.

"I got here and saw Nigeria's flag and a lot of other flags flying outside the international building," Salami said. "I knew I was welcome."

Salami began studying Computer Science and Mathematics. He became an International Student Diplomat to help other international students find their way at WKU. He did extensive research on cloud computing. He even secured a job before graduation. In the midst of juggling all of these elements, becoming his brother's keeper took top priority.

"Personally, I'm not an American citizen," Salami explained, "but my brother is. My mom used to travel to the U.S. and back a lot. So, she had him in the U.S. Things back home right now aren't great sometimes. So, she decided that it would be best for him to have his education here."

Upon his arrival in the U.S. Salami's brother initially stayed with some family friends. However, some unforeseen circumstances arose. Several legal documents later, Salami became his brother's official guardian.

"I figured the best thing to do was get my degree as fast as possible and get a job as fast as possible to support not only myself, but him as well," he said.

He quickly found that time management was the most significant issue he faced.

"I feel like I had to swap some fun things for not-so-fun things sometimes," he said.

He cared for his brother while working and taking 18 credit hours among all of his other involvements, which he describes as a straight-line routine of class, work and sleep.

"I tried to also make my younger brother see a little bit of the struggle that was going on so he would focus on his studies more and give himself some motivation—a way to be and a way not to be," Salami noted. "He's in high school. I was more concerned about that than anything. I knew that whatever way he turns out—it was on me."

Above all, Salami wants to be an inspiration for his brother.

"I just want him to go down a good path," he said. "To make sure he wants to make the best decisions. Like if he wants to play a sport, I'll let him play a sport. He told me he wants to write. I told him to go for it. If you're not doing something you're passionate about, then what's the point of doing it?"

Salami lives this philosophy as a guardian. A Nigerian. A worker. A brother. ■ BRYSON KELTNER ('17) | GRACE PRITCHETT (PHOTOS)

Class Notes is a department that allows alumni to update fellow classmates on significant accomplishments and events in their lives. If you wish to publish announcements in Class Notes, please submit them by mail to WKU Alumni Association, 292 Alumni Ave., Suite 302, Bowling Green, KY 42101 or via email at alumni@wku.edu.

1950s

Joe Woosley ('53, A) of Hot Springs, Ark., Principal and Founding Partner of Jordan Woosley Crone & Keaton Ltd., was recently honored with the CFO Lifetime Achievement Award in Accounting from *Arkansas Business*. With more than a half century of service with his firm, Woosley was selected by an independent panel of judges to receive the award at a November 2018 recognition program. He is a graduate of the Bowling Green Business University (BU), the forerunner of WKU.

1960s

Robert Ramsey ('63, L) and his wife, Willanna, of Bowling Green, Ky., are retiring after more than 60 years in business as owners of Container World, Inc. and Ramsey Mobile Home Supplies.

Bill Whittaker ('65, L) of Glasgow, Ky., was presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement award in 2018. The Marquis list of Who's Who Lifetime Achievement recognizes individuals who have achieved greatness in their industry and have excelled in their field for at least 20 years.

1970s



Eunice Payne ('73, '75, '80, L) of Louisville, Ky., is serving a second term as the 1st Vice President of the Jefferson County

Retired Teachers Association. Payne's career in education spans more than 40 years.

Ronnie Ellis ('75) of Frankfort, Ky., has retired after working for 36 years as a reporter. Ellis has spent the past 14 years covering Kentucky state government for Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. (CNHI). He plans to move back to his hometown of Glasgow, Ky., and will still write a regular column for CNHI.

1980s

Marianne Smith Edge ('81) of Owensboro, Ky., has joined the FLM Harvest Board of Advisors. Edge currently works as the Principal/Founder of Agri-Nutrition Edge.

Dr. Vicki Phillips ('81, '88) of Seattle, Wash., was named the Chief Education Officer for The National Geographic Society.

Greg Seaton ('81, A) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been hired as the Business Development/Commercial Lending Officer at Service One Credit Union.

Kenny Perry of Franklin, Ky., won the 2018 TPC Twin Cities PGA Tour Champions event. This is his third time to win the TPC Twin Cities.

Thomas Richards ('82, A) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named Chairman of the Bowling Green Board of Parks Commissioners for 2018-2019. He has been a member of the board for more than 20 years.



Paul Schaumburg ('82) of Paducah, Ky., was named the District Level Administrator of the Year by the

Kentucky Association of School Administrators. At the 2018 conference, Schaumburg received the O.V. Jones Memorial Award for outstanding service from the Kentucky School Public Relations Association. He currently works as the Community Relations Director for Graves County Schools.

Dr. Vicki Berling ('83) of Edgewood, Ky., was named the Director of Professional Development and head of the Enzweiler Building Institute by the Building Industry Association of Northern Kentucky.

George Nichols III ('83, L) of Potomac, Md., was named President and CEO of the American College of Financial Services. He currently serves on the WKU Board of Regents.

Mike Burress ('85, '88) of Elizabethtown, Ky., was promoted to Executive Director of the Lincoln Trail Area Development District.



ALUMNI CONNECTION

Dr. Chris Schmidt ('95, '12) and **Claude Bacon ('94, '01, L)** are pictured with friend Toby Young after they all completed the Florida Ironman on Nov. 4, 2018. The race was relocated to Haines City, Fla., after Hurricane Michael devastated Panama City Beach.



Dr. Michelle Myers ('85) of Parkville, Mo., was named Provost of Park University.

Tim Culver ('86, L) of Versailles, Ky., was named Vice President of Advancement for Midway University.

Dr. James Flynn III ('86) of Franklin, Ky., was named Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents. Dr. Flynn is the Superintendent of Simpson County Schools.

Brent Holsclaw ('86, '90) of Bardstown, Ky., was named the Chief Financial and Facilities Officer at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.

Jamie Sizemore ('86) of Elizabethtown, Ky., was named Executive Director of Feeding America, Kentucky's Heartland.

Jama Bennett ('88, '90) of Vine Grove, Ky., retired from James T. Alton Middle School in Hardin County, Ky., after spending the last 19 years as Principal. Her career in education spans 33 years.

Susanna Westerfield ('88) of Louisville, Ky., was selected as Executive Director for the Friends of Metro Animal Services (FOMAS).

1990s

Scott Alvey ('90) of Versailles, Ky., was named Executive Director of the Kentucky Historical Society.

Robbin Morrison Taylor ('90, '97, L) of Bowling Green, Ky., joined the team at McCarthy Strategic Solutions, LLC, a governmental relations firm in Frankfort, Ky.

Lisa (Scites) Allen ('91) of Bardstown, Ky., has been named Interim Dean of the School of Education at Campbellsville University.

Dr. Donald Goodin ('91) of Elizabethtown, Ky., has returned to Hardin Memorial Hospital to practice medical oncology and hematology, as well as serve as the Medical Director for the Cancer Center.

Dr. Caren Daniels ('92) of Morehead, Ky., was appointed by Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin to the Kentucky State Board of Medical Licensure.

Greg Gerard ('92, A) of Berea, Ky., was named President of Baptist Health Richmond.

Jacinta (Boswell) Pleasant ('92, '05) of Radcliff, Ky., was named Principal of Radcliff Elementary School.

Dr. Kenneth Stalder ('92) of Huxley, Iowa, received the Animal Industry Service Award and ASAS Fellow in the extension category. Both are national awards presented by the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS).

Susan Matthews ('96, '98) of Hartford, Ky., has expanded her family medical practice, Bluegrass Regional Healthcare, to include mental health care. The clinic is named Bright Futures Behavioral Health. Matthews works as a Nurse Practitioner.

Sherry Murphy ('96, L) of Elizabethtown, Ky., was named Executive Director of the Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Lt. Col. Jon Sowards ('98) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named Vice President of the South Central Workforce Development Board.

Kyle Chapman ('99) of Atlanta, Ga., was named the Business Development Manager of the Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Jared Ford ('99) of Charlotte, N.C., was promoted to Partner and President of Construction at The Dinerstein Companies (TDC).

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Get to know **Linda Gamblin Ball ('78, L)**, WKU's newest Regent

Lexington, Ky., businesswoman **Linda Gamblin Ball ('78, L)** says her experience at WKU gave her the confidence to succeed at a young age.

The Madisonville, Ky., native earned a B.S. in Business Administration in 1978, obtained her real estate license in 1979 and quickly found success in selling homes.

"My experience at WKU impacted so many different areas of my life," she explained. "It gave me confidence to get my real estate license at a young age, and it taught me the value and importance of education, which was certainly passed on to all three of my children. It also taught me the value of giving back to the community."

That community includes her fellow alumni at WKU, as Ball was appointed this past summer to a six-year term on the Board of Regents by Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin.

"I feel truly honored and humbled to join this impressive Board of Regents and hope that I can help with the advancement of the University moving forward," she said. "I would like to somehow make a difference in the lives of students in western Kentucky (and beyond) so that their lives will be forever impacted by the WKU education they receive and also have a generational effect going forward."

During her time at WKU, Ball worked on campus in the Department of Psychology and off campus at Graves Gilbert Clinic before graduating in the summer of 1978.

"I will always remember how special my graduation was on that beautiful summer night in Bowling Green surrounded by family and friends," she shared. "I felt truly happy, blessed and ready for all future endeavors in my life ahead."

Linda Gamblin Ball has been married to her husband, Ray, since 1984. They have ownership in Ball Homes and in James Motor Company. An avid volunteer, she has been associated with numerous boards and organizations including the American Heart Association, the AHA Great Rivers Affiliate Board, Hope Center, One Parent Scholar House, The Lexington School Board of Trustees, Baby Health Services, University of Kentucky Women and Philanthropy as well as several others. She is also a Lifetime Member of the WKU Alumni Association.

She and Ray have three children (Rachel Ball Albright, D.R. Ball and Ann Kelly Ball) and a 2-year-old granddaughter, Hallie Albright.



2000s

Matthew Bastin ('00) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named Principal of Caverna High School.

Diyana Lashawn Jones ('00) of Louisville, Ky., was named Principal of John F. Kennedy Elementary School.

Molly Schroer ('00) of Gatlinburg, Tenn., was named Management Analyst for Mammoth Cave National Park.

Cory Edwards ('01) of Glasgow, Ky., was named Principal of Temple Hill Elementary.



Fla.

Grace Evans ('01) of Polk City, Fla., was named the 2018 Teacher of the Year at Garner Elementary School in Winter Haven, Fla.

Thomas Grinter ('01) of Louisville, Ky., was accepted into the 14th annual Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies at Pembroke College of Oxford University in England.

Lelan Hancock ('01, '08) of Owensboro, Ky., was named the Assistant City Manager for the City of Owensboro.

Laura (Adams) Alexander ('03, A) of Owensboro, Ky., was named General Manager of the Owensboro Convention Center and Owensboro Sportscenter.



Reformatory.

Philip Campbell ('04, A) of Goshen, Ky., was named Deputy Warden of Programs and Operations at the Kentucky State Reformatory.

Melissa Bailey ('04) of Bowling Green, Ky., has been sworn in as a WKU Police Officer.



Lauren (Armstrong) Parsons ('04) of Lexington, Ky., has been selected to serve as the Director of

Outreach for the Legal Marketing Association's Southeast Region Board of Directors. Parsons is the Director of Marketing and Client Relations at Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney, PLLC.

Elizabeth (Brown) Chapman ('05, '13, L) of Atlanta, Ga., was named the Associate Director of Development at Emory University School of Nursing.

Rick Harding ('05) of Johnstown, Colo., was named Chief Executive Officer for Clear View Behavioral Health.



Ameerah Palacios ('05) of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was chosen as a recipient of the "35 Under 35 Award" by the

National School Public Relations Association. The annual award recognizes 35 emerging leaders from across the United States who are making a difference in school public relations. Palacios is the Program and Marketing Manager of the Academies of Nashville, which represents 39 academies within the largest neighborhood high schools in Metro Nashville Public Schools.

Kevin Jones ('06) and his wife, **Nicole Jones ('06)**, of Decatur, Ill., are working as special education teachers at Illinois Montessori School.

Brittney Hernandez-Stevenson ('07) of Greenville, Ky., has been named the Interim Academic Director of Madisonville Community College's Muhlenberg Campus.

Ashlee Clark Thompson ('07) of Louisville, Ky., was named Culture Editor at Louisville Public Media.

Rob Thompson ('07) of Elizabethtown, Ky., was appointed by Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin to the Kentucky Board of Barbering, which regulates the industry in the state.

Gulam Zade ('07) of Brentwood, Tenn., was recognized as one of *Nashville Business Journal's* "40 Under 40."

Bryan Carrico ('08) of Bowling Green, Ky., was promoted to Manager of the Pre-Engineered Steel Buildings Division at Stewart Richey Construction.

Ginger Griffin Graves ('08, '10) of Portland, Tenn., was named the Branch Librarian for the Smyrna Public Library.

Dr. Tyler Jury ('08, '12) of Louisville, Ky., has opened his own practice, Jury Family Dentistry, in Oldham County, Ky. Jury was also appointed to the Kentucky Alzheimer's Association Board.

Matt Richman ('08) of Ooltewah, Tenn., has started a business called Billboards for Education, with 10 percent of the profits dedicated to helping local schools.

Will Perkins ('09, '11) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named the Sports and Digital Editor at the *Glasgow Daily Times*.

2010s



Drew Martin ('11, '14, L) of Bowling Green, Ky., received the 2018 Junior Achievement Karl Flemke Pioneer Achievement Award

at the Junior Achievement USA National Leadership Conference in Milwaukee, Wis. The award is given to a first-time Junior Achievement President who has demonstrated outstanding contributions and achievements to the organization.

Taurean Smith ('11) of Owensboro, Ky., was named the Interim Head Football Coach at Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Andrea Wellkamp ('11) of Louisville, Ky., was named Director of Merchandising for Furniture at Crosley Brands.

Dr. Bonny Copenhagen ('12) of Superior, Wis., was appointed President of New River Community and Technical College.

Kenny Martin ('12, '17) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named a WKU Men's Football Assistant Coach.



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

Tessa Duvall ('13) of Jacksonville, Fla., and **Caitlin Herrington ('12)** of Pendleton, S.C., were selected as reporting fellows through John Jay College's Center on Media, Crime and Justice. Duvall and Herrington were among the 33 journalists from the U.S. and Canada who were selected to attend the two-day symposium, "Children and Justice: Unfinished Business." The fellowship is designed to support journalists and strengthen their reporting on matters of juvenile justice. The two studied together at WKU's School of Journalism and Broadcasting, and worked at the *College Heights Herald*. Now, Duvall works as an Enterprise Reporter for the *Florida Times-Union* and Herrington works as the Lifestyle Editor at *The Journal* in Seneca, S.C.

Andrew Pettijohn ('12) of Louisville, Ky., was hired as an Attorney for Reminger Co., LPA. In this role, Pettijohn will defend businesses and individuals facing claims involving general liability, professional negligence and employment matters.



Justin Pile ('12, '13) of Deerfield, Ill., graduated with a Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine from the University of

Pikeville in May 2018. He currently works as an Emergency Medicine Resident Physician at Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago, Ill.

Lindzey (Roberts) Trogdon ('12) of Philpot, Ky., was promoted to Mortgage Loan Officer for First Security Bank in Owensboro.

Taylor Bennett ('13) of Henderson, Ky., accepted a position with Henderson County Schools as a District Technology Teacher.

Jordan Staples ('13) of Corydon, Ky., was named the Membership Sales Representative of Kyndle, the Kentucky Network for Development, Leadership and Engagement.

Amy Correll-Hehre ('14) was featured in *TOPS Louisville* magazine for her work in opening OVI Children's Hospital in Kenya. Correll-Hehre is a Physician's Assistant at OVI.

Kevin Husk ('14) of Lewisport, Ky., was named the Girls' Basketball Coach at Hancock County High School.

Michael Rodgers ('14) of Owensboro, Ky., was named Chief Institutional Officer of Owensboro Community and Technical College.

Elaine Clark ('15, '18) of Owensboro, Ky., accepted the position of Manager of Clinical Integration at Owensboro Health.

Dominique Yates ('15) of Louisville, Ky., has been hired as a Multimedia Sports Analyst at the Louisville *Courier Journal*.

Claire Bellar ('16) of Bowling Green, Ky., was named a 2018 James Madison Fellow. She will receive \$24,000 for graduate school to become an outstanding teacher of the American Constitution. Bellar is a Social Studies teacher at Warren East High School.

Brooks Bennett ('16) of Vine Grove, Ky., took a position as a Spray Tech at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky.

Robin (Huffines) Hildesheim ('16, A) of Elizabethtown, Ky., was promoted to Program and Account Executive for the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce.

Jordan Smith ('16) of Bowling Green, Ky., joined the Bowling Green *Daily News* staff as a Multimedia Journalist.



Tanner Smith ('16, '18, A) of Franklin, Ky., and **Corbin Wilson ('16, '17, A)** of Calhoun, Ky.,

married on June 9, 2018, at Van Meter Auditorium on WKU's campus.

Mitchell Walker ('16) of Bowling Green, Ky., received a Patriot Award, which recognizes outstanding support of employees who serve in the National Guard. Walker is the Police Chief at WKU.

Damon Barnes ('17) of Elizabethtown, Ky., has taken a volunteer leadership role as President of Greenspace, Inc. in Elizabethtown.

Justin Johnson ('17) of Bowling Green, Ky., signed to play basketball with the Cagliari Dinamo Academy in Italy.

Daniel Pulliam ('17) of Indianapolis, Ind., was named the 2018 inductee for the WKU Libraries Open Access Hall of Fame. The honor recognized Pulliam for his thesis "Effect of Student Classroom Cell Phone Usage on Teachers," which was submitted in the spring of 2017 to the University repository TopSCHOLAR. His thesis has been downloaded more than 44,000 times in 181 countries. Pulliam is a School Psychologist for the Perry Township School District.

Steven Ricke ('17) of Sioux City, Iowa, was hired as an Admissions Counselor at Morningside College in Sioux City.



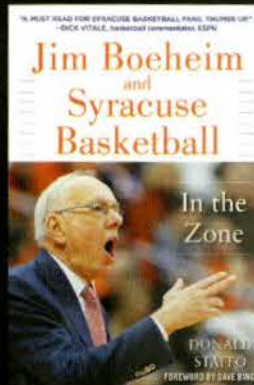
Connor Smith ('17, A) of Franklin, Ky., married **Bryant Gross ('17, A)** of Livermore, Ky.,

on Sept. 29, 2018, at The Barn at Bethel Grove in Franklin, Ky.

Miss Kentucky Katie Bouchard ('18) of Owensboro, Ky., was named the Spokesperson for Kentucky Proud.

THUMBS-UP!

Dr. Donald Staffo ('70)



Dr. Donald Staffo ('70) of Tuscaloosa, Ala., has written a book titled *Jim Boeheim and Syracuse Basketball: in the Zone*, which dives into the career of the storied Syracuse University Basketball Coach and the elite program he built.

THUMBS-UP!

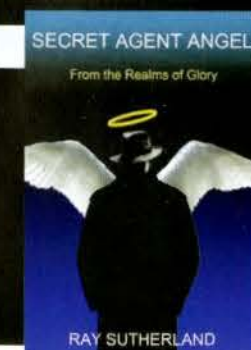
Christopher Colucci ('87)



Christopher Colucci ('87) of Malvern, Pa., took part as the Co-Creator and Sound Designer of the world premiere adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* at the Lantern Theatre Company.

THUMBS-UP! Ray Sutherland ('76)

Ray Sutherland ('76) of Laurinburg, N.C., has written his first novel, *Secret Agent Angel: From the Realms of Glory*. Published through Black Opal Books, the book is a story about Samuel, a secret agent angel on earth, who has to improvise and rely on faith when things go awry. Sutherland has worked as a Professor of Religion at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke for more than 30 years. He resides in North Carolina with his wife, Regina.



BIRTHS



and Vera, as Hilltopper fans.

Catherine (Cassady) Woods ('06) and **Chris Woods ('07)** of Louisville, Ky., welcomed their third daughter, Piper Ann, on July 23, 2018. She joins sisters, Cassady



Lizzie (Correa) Brown ('10) and **Alex Brown ('08)** of Bowling Green, Ky., announce the birth of their daughter, Bennett Elizabeth, on July 12, 2018.



Jay Gravatte ('07) and his wife, Brittany, of Louisville, Ky., announce the birth of their son, Luke Jamison, on May 31, 2018.



Kristin (Wilcox) Duvall ('10) and **Ben Duvall ('11, '14)** of Bowling Green, Ky., welcomed their daughter, Addison Shae, on Aug. 8, 2018.

16TH ANNUAL

ALUMNI COLLEGE

JUNE 7-8, 2019

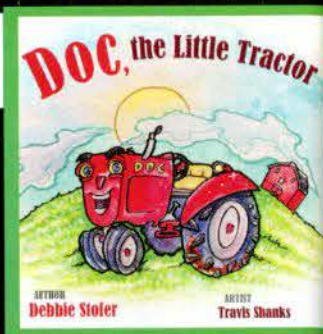
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THUMBS-UP!

Debbie Stofer ('99)

Debbie Stofer ('99) of Beaver Dam, Ky., has written a children's book titled *Doc, the Little Tractor*. The book promotes small and large-scale agriculture as well as farmers markets.



THUMBS-UP! John Carpenter

A master of horror, former Hilltopper **John Carpenter** created the 1978 hit thriller *Halloween*, which has inspired and influenced countless other filmmakers. On Oct. 19, 2018, the 11th installment in the film series debuted with Carpenter serving as composer, executive producer and creative consultant. John Carpenter is a member of the 1999 Class of the WKU Hall of Distinguished Alumni and received an honorary doctorate in 2007 from WKU.

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT

We loved **Kristin (Wilcox) ('10) Duvall and Ben Duvall's ('11, '14)** Class Note submission so much that we gave them and their daughter, Addison Shae, a place of honor on the introductory section of Hilltopper Nation on page 59! Send us an awesome photograph, and you could also be featured in this space. Visit the Class Notes Drop Box at alumni.wku.edu/classnotes, or send them by email to alumni@wku.edu.



Esch is continuing her research in a doctoral program at Michigan State University.

Clarice Esch ('14)

If you ask **Clarice Esch ('14)**, about how she navigated the process of applying for nationally competitive scholarships, she will say "persistence."

An alumna of the Gatton Academy, Esch pursued undergraduate research in agriculture with Dr. Martin Stone, Associate Professor of Horticulture. She was recognized as an EPA Greater Research Opportunities Fellow and a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, the most prestigious award for undergraduates pursuing research careers.

"There were definitely more applications that I was not successful with, but the act of putting together the best application is something to be celebrated," she said.

Esch also received a Fulbright U.S. Student grant to fund a year abroad after she graduated from WKU. She was notified only a couple weeks before beginning her graduate degree that she would be able to research the effect of trees on forest soils in Costa Rica.

Esch is now pursuing a doctorate at Michigan State University in the Department of Forestry with financial support from the National

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT



As an undergraduate, Esch conducted research with WKU Horticulture Professor Dr. Martin Stone.

"Agriculture is at the center of sustainable food production and its impact on the environment. Clarice is passionate about the intersection of these two critical areas, and she represents the next generation of scientists who will tackle these important issues."

DR. MARTIN STONE

Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, an endeavor for which she was well-prepared by her undergraduate research.

"Agriculture is at the center of sustainable food production and its impact on the environment," Dr. Stone said. "Clarice is passionate about the intersection of these two critical areas, and she represents the next generation of scientists who will tackle these important issues."

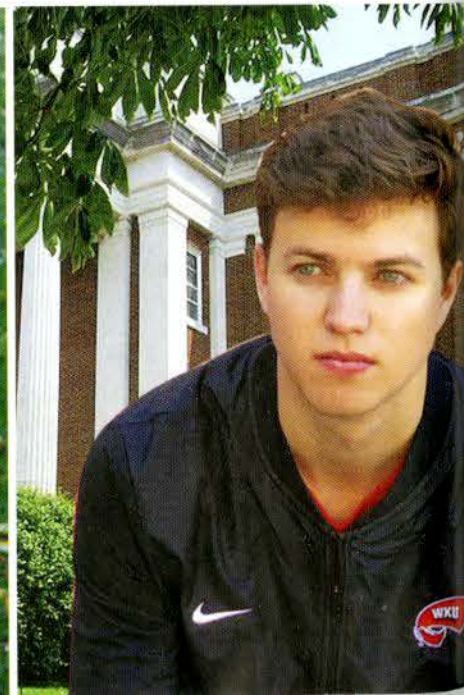
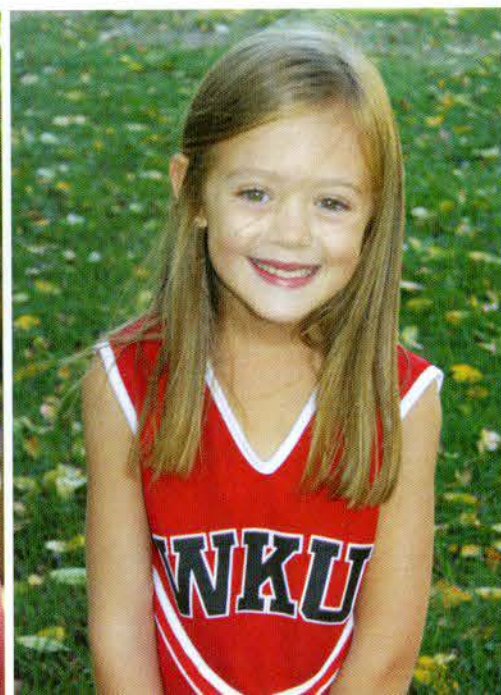
When asked about the benefits of applying for nationally competitive awards, Esch said cultivating skills in addition to research is just as valuable.

"My writing skills improved by working with the Office of Scholar Development," Esch said, "whether I applied those skills when writing cover letters for job applications, for my next research application or for a grant to study abroad."

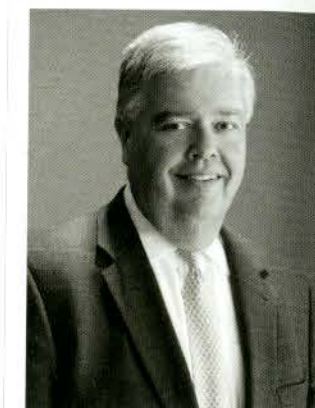
For students approaching graduation or thinking about what life after WKU will hold, Esch advises that as long as you keep moving forward and pursuing your interests, great opportunities will come along. ■ **CORY DODDS ('13)** AND **CAMERON FONTES (CURRENT STUDENT)**



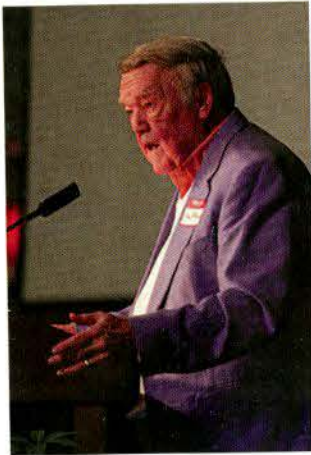
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| Mrs. Denna Johnson Alston, '01 | Mr. Charles Mark Carter, '82 | Mr. Harold Waymon Denison, '68, '71, '73 |
| Dr. Alan B. Anderson, Faculty | Mr. Paul Wayne Carter, '70 | Mr. Danny Lee Denney, '92 |
| Ms. Luanna Anderson, '62 | Mr. Billy Joe Caudel | Dr. Betty Detwiler, Faculty |
| Mr. John Stephen Asher, '90 | Mrs. Beth Ann (Beasley) Chaney, '81, '90 | Mr. Robert Earl Devine, '65 |
| Mrs. Judith Stiles Ball, '65 | Ms. Jennifer (Schrooten) Chaney, '05 | Ms. Emily Devore |
| Ms. Juanita Bardin, '43 | Mrs. Christina Chappell, '62 | Retired Maj. Jackie Wayne Dickens, '67 |
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| Retired Col. Byron H. Bell, '58 | Mrs. Brenda F. Clark, '94 | Mr. Charles W. Dooley, '48 BU |
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| Mr. William R. Birdwell, '51, '58 | Mr. Clifton Clift Jr., '64 | Ms. Deborah Jean "Riz" Dunaway, '93 |
| Ms. Courtney P. Bivins | Mr. Tracy Guy Coleman, '03, '10, Staff | Mrs. Elizabeth Grainger Dunn, '45, '48, '72 BU |
| Mrs. Winnie J. Blackburn, '63 | Ms. Martha (Crary) Collett, '50 | Mr. Joseph Leo Durbin Jr., '74 |
| Dr. Edward W. Bohlander Jr., Faculty | Mrs. Kathy Collier, '98 | Mr. Ben C. Eddie, '71 |
| Ms. Nancy Carol Bouldin, '97 | Mr. W. Ernest Collins Jr., '66, '68 | Mr. Derrick James Elder, '10 |
| Mr. Samuel Anthony Bowling | Mrs. Jeanette J. Conner, '80, '86 | Mr. Charles John Ellis, '86 |
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| Ms. Laverne Clapp Brown, '76 | Mr. James E. Crabtree, '59 | Mrs. Melody Sue (Emory) Ferguson, '83 |
| Mrs. Mary Ruth (Dodson) Brown, '56 | Mr. Morris C. Craig, '59, '64 | Mr. James Vernon Fishback, '71 |
| Mr. Bobby L. Buchanan, '53 | Mr. Jeffrey M. Crane, '92 | Ms. Myra Jane Fishburn, '93, '14 |
| Mr. Jimmie Darrell Buchanan, '92 | Ms. Bessie R. Crenshaw | Mrs. Mildred Kerr Fox, '44 |
| Mr. Robert Edwin Bulleit, '69 | Ms. Karen Hatfield Cross | Mr. William L. "Bill" Franklin, '64, '67 |
| Ms. Rose A. Bullock | Mr. Michael D. Crowe, '64, '67, '75 | Dr. John H. Freer |
| Dr. Frank L. Buono | Mr. Gene Cox Crume Sr., '67 | Mr. Calvin Fulkerson, '52 |
| Mr. James David Burns, '67 | Dr. Debbie Drake Davis, '88, '95 | Mr. William Robert "Doc" Fuqua Jr. |
| Ms. Bette Burruss | Mr. Richard C. Davoust | Ms. Theresa A. Furlong, '98 |
| Mr. Eldon Bush, '69 | Mr. Larry Lane Daws, '76 | Mrs. Phyllis June (Short) Gardner, '65, '76 |
| Mr. Selvin Hardin Butts Sr. | Mr. Jack L. Day, '54, '63 | |



John Asher ('90, L), a devoted Hilltopper alumnus, volunteer and parent, passed away Aug. 30, 2018. A resident of Louisville, Ky., Asher was a member of the WKU Greater Louisville Alumni Chapter and a past member of both the Mahurin Honors College Parents Advisory Council and the WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors, where he served as President from 2007-2008. Asher combined his passion for WKU with his career at Churchill Downs, where he served as Vice President of Racing Communication. During the past 20+ years, Asher facilitated WKU Day at the Races events for alumni. He was also always willing to host a Hilltopper, give a tour or emcee any event, and he proudly wore the WKU red. He was the recipient of the Westerner of the Year award from the Greater Louisville Alumni Chapter, the Practitioner Award from the WKU School of Journalism & Broadcasting and the Volunteer of the Year award from WKU. In addition, he was a longtime supporter of the WKU Alumni Association and Department of Journalism & Broadcasting. He and his wife, Dee, have three children, all of whom attended WKU. Memorial gifts may be made to the John Asher Scholarship Fund, c/o College Heights Foundation, 1906 College Heights Blvd. #41016, Bowling Green, KY 42101.



Don McGuire ('54, L) a member of the legendary Hilltoppers musical quartet, passed away, Sept. 6, 2018. He attended WKU on a basketball scholarship after a spectacular performance in the state high school all-star game, but it was his musical skill that brought him the greatest acclaim during his time on the Hill in the 1950s. Skyrocketing to the top of the recording charts in less than three years, the Hilltoppers were recognized as the number-one vocal combination by *Billboard* and *Cash Box* magazines, and they consistently remained one of America's Top Ten through 1960. Earlier in 2018, McGuire released his autobiography, *From Big Bottom to Broadway: Remembering the Singing Hilltoppers*, where he shared what he called an unbelievable ride around the world. Over the years, McGuire continued to remain involved with his alma mater. He served as President of the WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors for 1979-1980. In addition, memorabilia from the Hilltoppers is housed in the WKU Museum in the Augenstein Alumni Center, which opened in 2013. McGuire, who made his home in Lexington, Ky., is survived by his wife, Maxine, three children and several grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be made to the Bobby and Don McGuire Scholarship Fund, c/o College Heights Foundation, 1906 College Heights Blvd. #41016, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

Mrs. Susie Jane (Newton) Garrett, '82, '85
Ms. Kendra Nichole Garvin, '94
Mrs. Pat (May) Gaunce
Mrs. Janice Ann Marie Geis
Mrs. Teresa E. Gibson, '99
Mr. William Keith Godwin, '84
Mrs. Emma Jane (Conklin) Gollotte, '56 BU
Mrs. Janice Clark Goodpasture, '74
Mr. Griffith Lewis Gordon
Mr. Robert Joseph Gover, '58, '60
Mrs. Peggy Ann (Moore) Grace, '94
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Mr. Allen P. Grider, '62
Mr. Craig Charles Griffith, '76
Mr. James Edward Gross, '71
Mrs. Conni Williams Grubbs
Mrs. Ann Ruth Guilaran, '66, '83
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Mrs. Joy Elaine Hack
Mr. Russell Clay Hackley, '67
Mrs. Teresa Brown Hagan
Ms. Ravenel Holloway Haile
Mr. James Arthur Hale, '72
Mr. James A. Hamilton Jr., '49 BU
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Mr. Stephen Dale "Steve" Harmon, '75
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Mr. Charles Edward Harris, '58, '68 BU
Mr. Dennis James Harris, '74
Ms. Sherry Jeannene Hart, '75
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Mrs. Kathleen (Werlinger) Johnson, '74, '76
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Mr. Jeffrey Michael "Mike" Kasbaum, '86
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Mr. Terry Bartley Kitchens, '76
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Ms. Kimberly Dawn Knight, '84
Mrs. Virginia Marnell Knight, '81

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Mr. Wendell H. Massengale, '54
Mr. Gary Wayne Mathis, '89
Mrs. Charlotte A. (Greene) Matthews, '73
Mrs. Edna Leslie Mayer
Mr. Eugene Mayer
Mrs. Ilene McCarty
Mr. Kenneth E. McCarty, '51 BU
Mrs. Mollie (Rumage) McCarty, '56 BU
Mr. Joe Evans McCoy, '74
Mr. Joe David McDonald, '68
Rev. Raymond Walton McDonald, '72

Rev. Walter B. McGee, '60, '74, '79
Mr. Glenn S. McGehee Sr., '61, '65
Mr. Don K. McGuire, '54
Mr. James Ray McKinney, '68
Mrs. Beatrice Meador, '65, '68, '74
Mrs. Marcella Harlan Melton, '66
Mrs. Dorothy Virginia (Evans) Mey, '94
Retired Chief Warrant Officer Carl Edwin Midkiff, '80
Mrs. Carolyn W. Miller, '64
Mrs. Deanna (Mattingly) Mills, '96
Mrs. Jo Ann Mitchell, Staff
Mr. Leonard Mitchell
Ms. Carol (Cheal) Mollyhorn, '57, '83
Mr. G. William "Bill" Moore, '38 BU
Ms. Virginia Helen Moore, '56
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Mrs. Reta (Sumpter) Morgan, '51
Mr. Craig A. Morrow, '83
Mr. Leslie Brad Morse
Mrs. Doris Ann (Crutcher) Morton, '60, '70
Mr. John J. Murphy III
Mr. Larry Mutter, '62
Mr. Edward Botts Myers, '51
Mrs. Fannie Crawley Neal, '76
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Mr. Robert Dewey Nowlin
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Ms. Erica N. Owen, '17
Ms. Janice C. Owen, '58
Mrs. Roberta (Wilson) Owen
Ms. Paula Lynn Owens, '95, Staff
Mr. Edward Shelton Pace, '71

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Ms. JoAnn (Goodwin) Penrod, '71
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Ms. Elizabeth C. "Libby" Reynolds
Mr. Clarence L. Richardson, '48 BU
Mr. Charles Redmond Roberts, '59
Ms. Greta Jane Robey, '86
Mrs. Linda C. Rumage, '75
Dr. Pearl Black Rutledge, '53
Mr. Robert K. "Bob" Salyers Jr., '67
Mrs. Juliana (Wesley) Sampson, '03
Retired Lt. Col. Ralph Dale Schrenk, '50, '71
Ms. Ruth Scruggs
Mr. Terry W. Sears, '01, '05
Mr. Jack Shelton
Mr. James Robert Shine
Mr. George Wallace Shirley, '69
Mr. William Everett Shockley, '59
Mr. John Mark Shuffitt, '83
Mr. Steven Allan Shumate, '78
Mr. Glen C. Skaggs

Mr. Cory A. Smith
Mr. James A. Smith Sr.
Mr. Samuel T. Smith, '66, '73, '79
Mr. Robert Bruce Snaden, '82
Mr. Mark S. Snell, '83
Ms. Patricia Lynn "Pat" Snow
Mr. John Samuel Speakman
Mrs. Marilyn J. (Wilkins) Speck, '54
Mr. Douglas O. Sprouse
Mr. Edgar P. Stamper, '40 BU
Mrs. Shirley (Jones) Stamper, '73
Mrs. Janis G. Stebbins, '89
Ms. Kellie (Thomas) Steen, '87, '92
Mrs. Brenda Elizabeth Stein, '87, '98
Mrs. Fay H. Stewart
Major Gregory Lynn Storey, '79
Mr. William D. Strickland, '53, '60
Mr. Dennis Paul Strobel, '70
Mr. Steven Lee Stucker, '68
Mrs. Marian (Price) Tabor, '50 BU
Mrs. Ronda May Talley, '56, '73 BU
Mr. Joseph Arnold Teborek, '55
Mrs. Mary Ward (Szorcik) Tedford, '56, '79
Mrs. Ann Frances (Hall) Teuton, '42, Staff
Mr. Adam Jason Thomas, '07
Mrs. Virginia E. Thomas
Mr. Terry Lynn Thomas, '74
Mrs. Mary Louise (Campbell) Tinchler, '49
Ms. Nancy Elizabeth Tooley, '90
Mr. Blair W. Trask, '79
Mrs. Jean Mayer Tucker
Ms. Mary Maurice Utley, '57, '63
Mr. Raymond R. Vaught Jr., '72
Mr. Glenn Allen Vogedes, '73, '78
Mr. Ed Waggener, '61
Mr. Mickey T. Walker, '59, '63

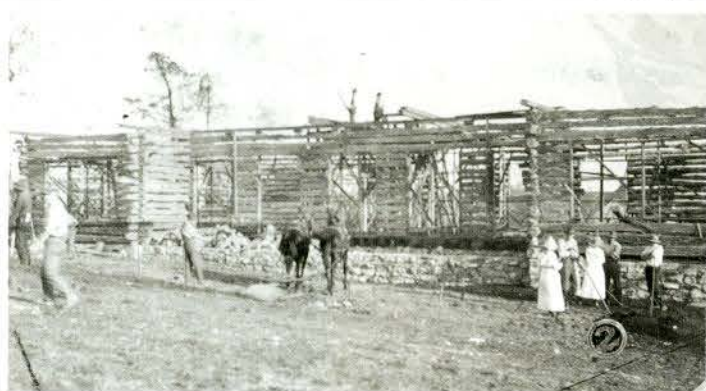
Longtime WKU faculty member **Dr. Edward W. Bohlander** died July 1, 2018, at the age of 72 following an injury while traveling in Vietnam. He had recently retired as Professor Emeritus from WKU where he taught for 35 years after earning his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Survivors include his wife, **Crystal ('96, '03, '14)**, and his children, William and Elizabeth Ann. Memorial gifts may be made to the Ed Bohlander Scholarship Fund, c/o College Heights Foundation, 1906 College Heights Blvd. #41016, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

Mr. William H. "Billy" Walker Sr.
Mr. Rodney Darrell Watkins, '62, '64
Mr. Raymond M. Weaver, '58, '59
Mrs. Patricia (Hall) Webb, '76, '83
Mrs. Nancy E. (Flint) Weis, '60
Mr. Michael James Weissmann, '88
Mrs. Susan Marie (Callery) Wellman, '83
Ms. Hazel F. Wells, '57 BU
Mrs. Lana V. Wells, '67
Mrs. Jenetta N. Whalen, Staff
Mr. Frank T. Wheeler
Mrs. Leoma S. White, '77
Mrs. Thelma Lorene Whitmer
Mrs. Grecia D. Williams, '78
Ms. Kimberly (Mason) Willoughby, '86, '91
Ms. Hillari Marie (Wilson) Wood, '91
Mr. Kenneth W. Wood
Dr. Marcia A. "Marcy" Woodruff, '75
Mr. Elwood A. "Woody" Woolwine Jr., '72
Mr. Howard L. Worley, '59 BU
Mrs. Mary Margaret Yager, '43
Mr. Aubrey D. Young, '58 BU
Mr. William A. Young IV, '70
Ms. Jean Rae Zeller, '78

* Data for In Memoriam is gathered from a variety of sources and is deemed to be correct to the best of our knowledge. Records include deaths reported through Dec. 31, 2018.

LOOKING BACK

1919



100 YEARS AGO

The Board of Regents authorized the construction of a Senior House using cedar trees from the Hill. Built the following year by members of the senior class, the Cedar House has served as a social center, library, student center and faculty house.

1944



75 YEARS AGO

When wartime conditions hampered the search for a Training School basketball coach, E.A. Diddle and Ted Hornback ('29) were tapped to share the duties. Diddle and Hornback coached basketball on the Hill for 42 and 26 years, respectively.

1968



50 YEARS AGO

On Oct. 15, Vietnam Moratorium Day activities took place on campus as students, faculty and community members protested the war. The *College Heights Herald* boasted that attendance throughout the day neared 1,000, but criticized as "juvenile" the theft of a letter posted in support of President Richard Nixon.

1994



25 YEARS AGO

As WKU neared its goal of wiring every campus building to connect to the "information highway," Academic Computing offered fall classes introducing students to the wonders of the internet. Soon, even President Thomas C. Meredith ('66, L) embraced the convenience of e-mail.

■ LYNN NIEDERMEIER | PHOTOS: WKU ARCHIVES; BOTTOM RIGHT BY SHUTTERBUG PHOTO

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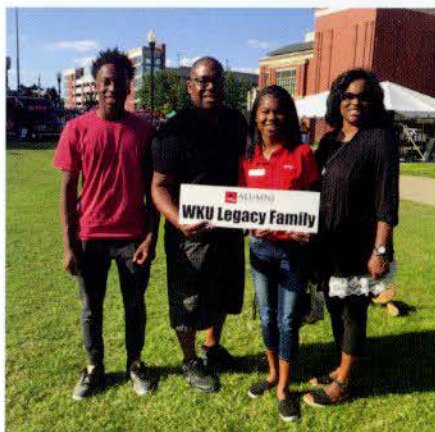
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TAILGATE & CELEBRATE | PARENT AND FAMILY WEEKEND



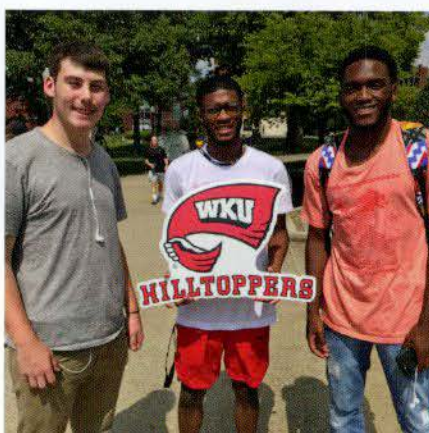
@WAYOFWHEELS | DAMION WHEELER ('18)



HILLTOPPER CONNECT | 11-29-18



@LAURENHAYNES7 | LAUREN HAYNES ('15)



FIRST DAY OF CLASSES | 8-27-18



@SYDNEYLUTSCH | SYDNEY LUTSCH ('14)

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